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Lester Rose Gardens
Watsonville, Calif.

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A Garden of the Middle Ages

British Museum

ROSES OF YESTERDAY

1950-1951

The Old Roses and the New

"I sing of Spring, flower crowned,

I sing the praises of the Rose."

"Enter then the Rose-garden when the first sunshine sparkles in the dew, and enjoy with thankful happiness one of the loveliest scenes of earth.

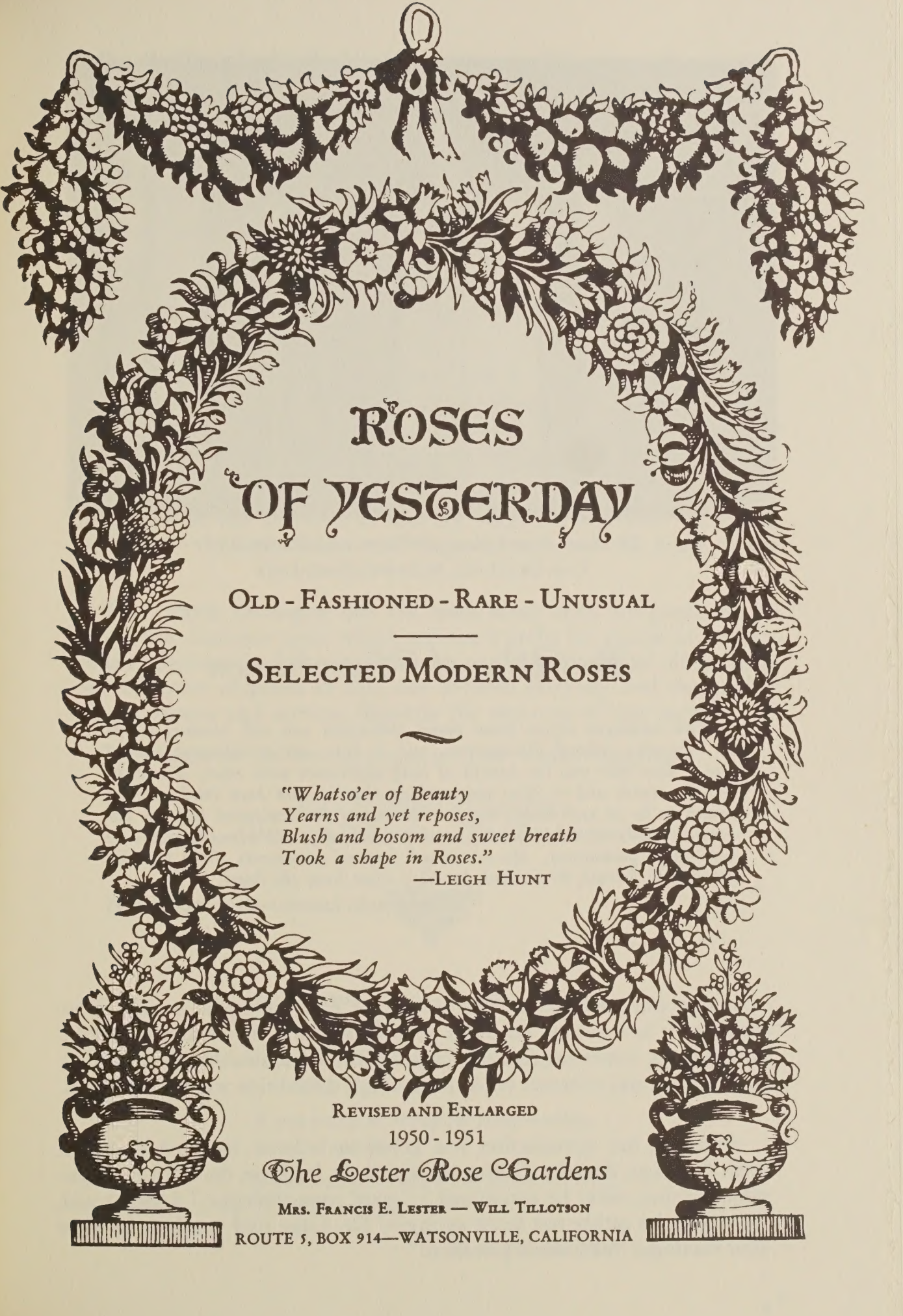
What a diversity, and yet what a harmony of colour! There are White Roses, Striped Roses, Pink Roses, Rose Roses, Carmine Roses, Crimson Roses, Scarlet Roses, Vermilion Roses, Maroon Roses, Purple Roses, Roses almost Black, and Roses of a glowing Gold!

What a diversity, and yet what a harmony of outline! Dwarf Roses and Climbing Roses, Roses closely carpeting the ground, Roses that droop in snowy foam like fountains, and Roses that stretch out their branches upwards as though they would kiss the sun; Roses 'in shape no bigger than an agate stone on the forefinger of an alderman,' and Roses five inches across; Roses in clusters, and Roses blooming singly; Roses in bud, in their glory, decline and fall.

And yet all these glowing tints not only combine, but educe and enhance each the other's beauty! All these variations of individual form and general outline blend with a mutual grace.

And over all this perfect unity, what a freshness, fragrance, purity, splendour!"

—DEAN HOLE, 1865



ROSES OF YESTERDAY

OLD - FASHIONED - RARE - UNUSUAL

SELECTED MODERN ROSES

*"Whatso'er of Beauty
Yearns and yet reposes,
Blush and bosom and sweet breath
Took a shape in Roses."*

—LEIGH HUNT

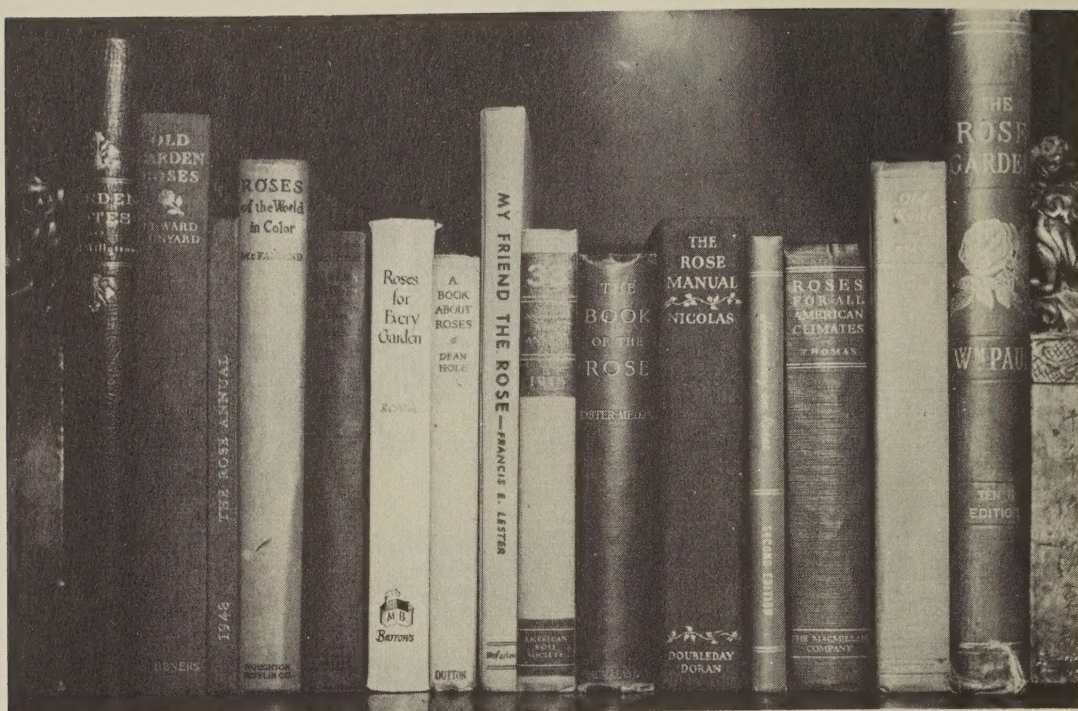
REVISED AND ENLARGED
1950 - 1951

The Lester Rose Gardens

MRS. FRANCIS E. LESTER — WILL TILLOTSON

ROUTE 5, BOX 914—WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA





TO THIS—THE ENLARGED “LITTLE ROSE LIBRARY,”
OUR GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By Way of Introduction

This catalogue differs from many catalogues you will receive; it has no expensive colored illustrations, and, I hope, no extravagant claims. But it does offer you the benefit of long experience with roses; it tries to tell the truth; and it offers you nothing that has not been tried out and found to be of real merit, not for the expert horticulturist but for the amateur gardener, whom we try to serve faithfully, and whose interests we hold to be paramount. My occasional personal comments about the Old Roses, will, I trust, be excused, for they come from the heart.

—FRANCIS E. LESTER—CATALOGUE, 1941

In case you have never tried to write a rose catalogue, permit us to comment it is a task of no mean proportions, says the catalogue writer, as he surveys, somewhat ruefully, once again the formidable pile of garden notes, letters, and reference books from which this edition will be composed.

Formerly, our introduction was keyed by a letter included from Dr. John G. Gage, Arcadia, California, which set forth, in the doctor's inimitable manner, what he considered a "good rose catalogue." I might add, we received a rather tart letter saying—"Dr. Gage told you how to write your catalogue; why don't you do it!"

But "telling the truth about roses" has its difficulties. Truth, alas, is a flexible term, shaded by opinion. Such rose points as color, form and type vary according to taste. Growth and bloom habit are strongly influenced by location, soil, climate and the skill of the gardener. You cannot "tell the truth about a rose" and have this truth apply universally.

There are basic virtues, however, which make a rose good. And among the hundreds of available varieties, old and new, are far more than we can hope to possess, which have outstanding quality and beauty, whether it be the rare delicacy of some old "rose of yesterday" or the latest handsome hybrid tea.

Many a beautiful eastern-grown rose is unknown in California gardens. Likewise colder sections are missing the pleasure of western roses, through the strange and certainly erroneous impression that those propagated in mild climates are not hardy elsewhere.

Lester Rose Gardens' small place in the sun, will depend on our judgment in the selection of worthy varieties, wherever they may be found—the best of the surviving old roses, and the finest of the new.

This simple catalogue lists far more kinds than are profitable to grow, but contains none which are not worthy by reason of beauty, charm, distinction, historical interest, or the sentiment of old memories. On your response to this, our avowed purpose, and the quality of our plants and service, depends the measure of our success.

We resign the following pages to your tender mercies.

Lester Rose Gardens
MARJORIE W. LESTER — WILL TILLOTSON



*If you would be happy for three hours,
Get drunk.*

*If you would be happy for three days,
Kill a pig and eat it.*

*If you would be happy for three months,
Get married.*

*If you would be happy your whole life long,
Become a gardener.*

—FROM THE CHINESE



Roses of Yesterday

"Fashion may have changed but beauty never."

If you are a rabid hybrid tea enthusiast and can see no rose beauty except that which is so brilliantly pictured and superlatively advertised in modern catalogues, best turn to "THE NEWER ROSES," page 47, my friend . . . these words are not for you. We have no quarrel with you . . . our admiration for the hybrid tea rose is probably as great as yours. Our enjoyment in them, however, does not exclude an absorbing interest in that great rose background to the hybrid teas covered by the general term "old-fashioned."

To those whose hobby has grown a bit jaded with the many modern varieties offered each season, the old roses furnish a fascinating vista far back through the years . . . the ancient species, Chinas, Damasks, Bourbons, Centifolias, Noisettes, Mosses, Ramblers, Rugosas, Teas, Polyanthas, the big, hardy Hybrid Perpetuals. What an infinite variety of color, type, perfume and plant habit! They have the charm and fine "workmanship" of old furniture, tapestry, old paintings, antique jewelry. They are the forebears of our modern favorites . . . the lavender and old lace of bygone days.

Our modest knowledge of roses, alas, is not deeply rooted in memories of grandmother's garden. We are the pupils of hundreds of amateur rosarians the country over, whose letters cross the desk each season, praising and appraising, condemning and complaining . . . you have taught us the little we know. We, like you, have "new" varieties each season, whose blooming is awaited with eager impatience. Perhaps they have been sent us for trial, or we have found them in some old garden, or have bought them from a fellow-nurseryman. There were over fifty this spring to view and judge for the first time. This is the annual reward for all the digging and spraying and fussing.

We address ourselves first to you, Mr. and Mrs. Rose Enthusiast, with a neat little garden space on a suburban lot, which awaits some roses. Let us say you have decided on fifty plants, not all one season, perhaps, but ultimately. Now by all means indulge your fancy for several of those modern hybrid teas . . . plant them in the foreground along with some polyanthas for constant color. They will give you much pleasure, both in and out of the garden.

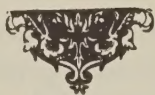
But back there along the fence, or the corner of the garage, are places for such fine old climbers as the deep-carmine American Beauty, with the unforgettable fragrance, or the sunset-hued Beauty of Glazenwood . . . the brilliant Austrian Coppèr . . . Gloire de Dijon, richly colored and repeating, the not-so-old but delightful Mme. Gregoire Staechlin, the radiant, climbing Shot Silk, of about the same vintage . . . Climbing Souvenir de la Malmaison, delicately beautiful and admired for a hundred years . . . Tausendschon, big and lusty, truly the "rose of a thousand beauties" . . . Veilchenblau, a cloud of magenta, lilac and violet tones in great spring blooming. Perhaps you will have a spot for the sweetbrier, Eglantine, to apple-scent your whole garden.

Between these lovely background, mass-blooming roses and your bed of hybrid teas, we suggest a sample planting of the old bush roses . . . a pink Crested Moss, and the rose-pink, dramatic Gloire des Mousseaux . . . a rugosa, Blanc Double de Coubert, pure white with heavenly fragrance, or perhaps the pink Delicata . . . the lovely, cupped tea rose, Duchesse de Brabant, always in bloom . . . a few varied Hybrid Perpetuals, tall-growing and profuse . . . the dark red General Jacqueminot, pink George Arends, glowing deep carmine, Marshall P. Wilder, the white "Snow Queen," Frau Karl Druschki. You should have a China rose . . . we suggest Hermosa . . . a Damask, Mme. Hardy, vintage 1832 . . . Variegata di Bologna, Centifolia, full-bodied, striped and so different. All these varied types add that interest, charm and distinction to a rose garden which hybrid teas alone cannot provide.

To you, fortunate owners of country homes with acres of ground, old fences, out-of-the-way nooks and corners, what a feast of spring and summer beauty can be yours! Here the old-fashioned roses are at their best . . . Belle of Portugal, earliest in spring; the Cherokees, red, pink and white; the intriguing Chestnut Rose, always in bloom; groups of the apple scented Sweetbriers in the rougher places. There is the glossy foliaged, sulphur-yellow Mermaid, in all-season bloom . . . the Musks and their many hybrids, producing great fountains of snowy-white clusters . . . fine old R. Soulieana . . . the great briers, Harison's Yellow and Hugonis, "first to tell that spring is at hand," and many, many more. What mass-color, size and fragrance, growing bigger and more spectacular with every season!

You will have space also for a charming old-fashioned garden, quite apart from your hybrid teas. Best to try a plant or two of the many types, to determine those you like best, and also, those which like you. There are still hundreds of old roses available to please every taste and awaken old memories.

We think the charming lady who answered us the following lines this spring will not be displeased if we quote them here: "I do indeed know what you mean by the special pleasure that you get from these old-fashioned roses, like the pleasure in such treasures as your old Swiss watch, your marquetry bed, your grandmother's embroidered alphabet. When I see and touch some lovely thing that my grandparents owned or grew in their gardens . . . that they were fond of, took care of and lived with, then I feel as if they and we who are here now, are not separated by the accident of our different eras of existence but are near and, in a sense, contemporary in our common love of beauty and of life."



Letters are the "fun" of our business—and the morning mail brings its daily assortment—pleased and happy letters, informative, sentimental, questioning—yes (we admit)—sometimes complaining; and some so entertaining they should find their way to print! To the many fine rose friends who have contributed to our "fun" a big and hearty THANK YOU! We are privileged to share one of these letters with you, which follows appropriately here.

Mrs. John F. Delph
Grivitz, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Tillotson:

Exactly six months ago I had your letter, in reply to a long-winded one of mine, and a very small and modest order. There were, to be exact, only eleven roses ordered, and with your generous and lovely gift of the Crested Moss, twelve, in all. Little did I wot what a world of wonder, beauty, enlightenment, and enchantment those twelve apostles of the rose world were to bring to me!

You may recall that we had a special problem, in that we are only summer farmers, arriving here later than the ideal planting time, and leaving too soon in fall to offer any winter protection at all. So it was with some trepidation that I chose your California sybarites, to transplant into our harsh and inhospitable Wisconsin climate. However, they were put, on arrival, into custody of a professional florist, there to be kept dormant until the end of April. Alas, the only dormancy, it appears, was that of the one to whose keeping they were entrusted, for when we unpacked them there were, to my horror and chagrin, enormous white shoots, eight inches long, and my hopes faded on sight. But planted they were . . . with faith, some hope and a minimum of charity for the situation. And also with all the yearning solicitude of a mother who sees her fledglings launched into the world under most inauspicious circumstances.

To make the story as short as my natural verbosity allows, they lived, triumphantly to throw down the glove in utter defiance of your well-meant caution, that of not expecting bloom of them this year. Pink Moss broke out prodigally with 42 exquisites; Red Moss had 27; York and Lancaster put out 17 of the gayest, maddest May-pole charms you ever laid bewitched eyes upon. Your lovely Crested Moss, as befits an ambassador of the best goodwill, showed a solitary, luscious flower, sure promise of what she will give later. Mme. d'Hebray was covered with color . . .

But the greatest enchantment, I think, was put on me by Mme. Hardy! She is now four feet tall, somewhat the buxom matron, a creature of the utmost amiability, nothing daunted by the cruelest drought we have had for years. While she apparently likes good-living, as evidenced by her promptly running to embonpoint after a fairly intensive bout of lavish liquid sustenance, she is no modern softie. Her children were all beautiful, the old-fashioned large family of good manners, rather too closely spaced for the complete approval of modern eugenics, I fear. But *what* children! I'm sure they were all girls—nothing so tenderly exquisite would even wish to be other than feminine. And "quite apropos of nothing," as you gaily say in the catalogue, don't you think it is the essentially feminine quality of some of the old roses that gives them their nostalgic charm?

At any rate, I doubt that "Tiffany," or any mere human enterprise, could do justice to the Madame, and her wonderful children, any more than they could capture and successfully translate the exquisite gill-like underside of a mushroom, which I am reminded of, in the delicate precision of the petal arrangement—plus the thrilling, the humbling purity of that whiteness! A neighbor of ours here—a little Hungarian woman now in her 75th year, stood like me, of course, silent and enthralled before them, one morning, and finally ventured, in her charming Old World accent—"How you say . . . Paradees?"

To me, Mme. Hardy will forever belong in that ineffable dream . . . "Paradees." Could I say more? I couldn't even if I tried, for the remembrance of that rose, of a still summer morning, with the dew glistening on that unreal, unbelievable beauty, brings tears where my voice ought to be.

And so, interminably, I'm afraid, I've told you, as you asked, what happened in my garden, in this joyous first year of acquaintance.

At a risk of having this land, with a snort of impatience, in your wastebasket immediately, I simply can't close without a few more words.

First, to tell you of my endless enjoyment of Mr. Lester's book ("My Friend the Rose"). What a man comes to life in those pages, and how really he lives on in his charming words, his beautiful concepts of the horticultural experiences he so thoroughly lived that they carried over into human relationships and human terms of value. I've given four copies of it, and everyone has been captivated from the first page. I can't tell you what delight it gives me to think of all his wonderful flowers growing on now, under your tender care, and from them the stocks passed on to bring some of their beauty to anonymous customers, struggling gardeners, like myself. And I am sure that in the "Paradees" of little Grandma Bischof, Mr. Lester tends his roses, eternally . . .

Once more, thanks many, many times for the joy of your catalogue and the anticipation of years ahead, full of Lester roses!

Sincerely,

(Signed) HELEN V. DELPH



*"A rose, A child, A bird, A star—
Those are my loves; better them ye who can."*



A RARE DELICACY LOST TO MODERN ROSES

Old Fashioned-Unusual Varieties

Adeline. Centifolia. A compact, many-branched bush with neat, light-green foliage, darkening as it ages, giving a pleasing two-tone effect. Blooms in clusters of 1½" very double flowers, of a smooth, soft lilac-rose. We rated Adeline last year among our top trial roses, for delicacy and old-world charm, and now offer it to you with our special blessing. 1.50

Amelie Gravereaux. H. Rugosa (1903). A lusty hybrid which makes a tall, well-shaped bush; blooms in clusters of 3-5, full petalled, cupped; unusual shade of carmine-red, lighter at the edges, giving a two-tone effect. Says authority Roy Shepherd, Medina, Ohio—"In my opinion, one of the top Hybrid Rugosas, with a lot of Hybrid Perpetual and Gallica in it." 1.50

American Beauty. H. Perpetual. (1886.) No modern rose has equalled its rich fragrance; none are likely to take its place in the sentimental memories of the older generation. Color is deep rose shaded smoky carmine; large, full-bodied, and, with us, in constant bloom. 1.50

American Beauty Climbing. (1909). We list separately to emphasize the special beauty and excellent plant habits of this lovely old rose in climbing form. 1.50



Arrillaga. H. P. (1929.) This is a giant among pink roses, with Mrs. John Laing and Frau K. Druschki in its parentage. Bears in great, all-season profusion, fat buds, singly on long stems . . . so "fat" in bad weather, they have difficulty in opening to perfection. Not recommended for the seashore—elsewhere hard to beat. Plant with the white Everest and you will have "a pair of aces to draw to." 1.75

Austrian Copper. Brier (1596). Says Louise Beebe Wilder in 1916—*"The Austrian Copper is a true sweetbrier, with nicely scented leafage, and bears its wonderful burnished blossoms, vermillion on the underside and yellow on the upper surface in lavish profusion; it is the most brilliantly striking rose of my acquaintance."* It gives but once each season but that once is splendid indeed—unexcelled by any rose of any color for brilliancy and sparkle. 1.75

Beauty of Glazenwood. (Fortune's Double Yellow) Noisette (1845). Rose G. Kingsley writing from London in 1908, tells the story for us—*"That singularly beautiful rose, Beauty of Glazenwood, is classed among the Noisettes, though it has nothing but its beauty in common with them. Requires a very dry, warm situation, when, if it is never pruned, it will flower abundantly."* One of the first to bloom in this locality; its brilliant tones of yellow, orange and red, fairly shout a spring greeting from many an old cottage, barn and fence. 1.75

Belinda. H. Musk (1936.) *Garden notes*—"Very lively growth, dark emerald-green, long-pointed foliage. Blooms profusely in large trusses similar to the perennial phlox—counted two canes with 100 buds; starts bright rose-pink, with lighter centers, ages very slowly and pleasantly to mauve. Consider right up with the best of our newly tested roses—wonderful for hedge and neat pillars." 1.75

Belle of Portugal. H. Gigantea. Rampant is the word for the "Portugese Hussy." Its great canes refuse to be confined, and from them hang in great profusion, enormous, semi-double, pale-pink blooms of rare beauty, over a long spring season only. Not hardy in severe climate, completely healthy elsewhere. 1.50

Belle Blanca. H. Gigantea. This is the white Belle of Portugal, otherwise identical in habit and bloom. The long, curling buds open frequently to six inch blooms. Admirers of the pink should have Belle Blanca also, a beauty in white satin. 1.50

Betty Uprichard. H. Tea. *Patent 23.* (1922) An exceptionally fine plant, performing well anywhere, but at its best in the cooler districts. Flowers are large, 14 petals, very fragrant, delicate salmon-pink, reverse carmine, with a distinct coppery sheen; in constant bloom. Will grow to five feet. 1.50



Billy Boiler. (Climbing.) H. Tea. (1927.) An Australian creation of the great Allister Clark. Dazzling red blooms, of fine form and fragrance, are produced constantly all season on a vigorous but easily controlled plant. In our opinion rates with the best of the red climbing roses, and makes a stunning pillar. 1.50

Black Prince. H. Perpetual (1866). A very large, cupped, full-petalled rose of darkest crimson, shaded black; especially fine fragrance. Vigorous, tall-growing and regal; heavy summer and fall bloom. One of our leading "memory roses," never yet with us in adequate supply. Please order early. 2.00

Blanc Double de Coubert. H. Rugosa (1892). Of active, spreading habit, with handsome rugose foliage. Its large, semi-double flowers are "pure as sunshine glancing on a white dove's wing," delicately and deliciously scented.

Says Neville Miller, Pennsylvania, who includes it among his prime favorites—*"Earliest blooms smelled like lily of the valley; subsequent flowers have a 'white rose' odor, which, by comparison, makes modern white roses seem scentless."* 1.50

Bloomfield Courage. Rambler (1925.) Vigorous but adaptable climbing type, and a striking pillar rose, in constant bloom. Its small single flowers are of dark velvety red, with light centers and prominent yellow stamens, borne in large clusters. Good anywhere but for maximum brilliancy and sparkle, we like it best in full sun.

"It reminds me of an old calico print," said Mrs. Lord of the Conard-Pyle Co. as we stood together this spring, admiring the beautiful plant which graces their display garden in West Grove, Penn. 1.50

Bloomfield Dainty. Everblooming semi-climber (1924). Similar in flowering habit to Bloomfield Courage; its profuse clusters are of deep canary-yellow, with the happy faculty of shedding quickly when finished; excellent as a climber and likes to embrace a six foot pillar stake. 1.50

Cardinal de Richelieu. Gallica (1840.) Former catalogue description was unfair to his grace, as he is no "blue rose" but comes out spring-dressed in voluminous robes of rich dark violet and maroon. A rose garden without the famous Cardinal lacks that certain eminence, which only he can give. 1.75

Cascadia. (1925.) Captain Thomas created this tall growing shrub, in a cross with one of his famous roses, Bloomfield Abundance. Produces in fine panicles of one inch white flowers, showing green stamens, and like all the Bloomfield family, is in constant bloom; particularly fine, dark, glossy foliage. One of the bright, sparkling notes in our little display garden which fronts the Lester cottage. 1.75



Castilian. (Rose of Castile) Ancient. One of the oldest roses known to history—truly the Rose of Romance. Flower is double, soft pink, entrancingly fragrant with the true attar of roses. In our damp location, Castilian cannot open to perfection, but customer reports are enthusiastic elsewhere. Worth an honored place in every old-fashioned garden, if for its perfume alone. 1.75

Champion of the World. H. Perpetual. (1894.) The offspring of good old Hermosa and Magna Charta. When the writer first noticed this old-fashioned, double, pink rose, on a visit to the Lester Gardens, he remarked—"What is this lovely, delicate old-timer." "Champion of the World," I was told. Shades of John L. Sullivan! Why do some beautiful roses carry such incongruous names? 1.75

Chaplin's Pink Climber. Says its originator, Chaplin Bros. Ltd., Waltham Cross, England, in 1933, "*A very striking pink, maintaining its colour to the last. Produces large trusses of medium-sized semi-double flowers, which remain on the plants for a long time, from the middle of June onwards, with occasional flowers in the autumn, altogether making a grand display. Handsome, glossy foliage and quite hardy. Awards—Gold Medal, N.R.S., Cory Cup for the best new climbing rose, Award of Merit, Royal Horticultural Society. It is the best pink climber ever raised.*" Pretty strong statement for a conservative Britisher, we agree, but its beauty on the summer house each spring places it among our favorite climbers. 1.75

Cherokee Rose. Demand has been so insistent, we can now furnish to the first who order a very limited supply of this lovely climber in white, red or pink. The beauty of its large single blooms and handsome "varnished" foliage is too well-known and loved to need added comment here.

Please specify color preference. 1.75

Chestnut Rose. (China.) R. Roxburghi. (1825.) Probably the most unique rose in our gardens, and one of the most beautiful. Vigorous, upright grower, with rich green foliage resembling the leaves of the locust tree, abundantly grown from the gray-green stalks. Ours is the double variety, about 2½ inch blooms of a lovely but indescribable rose-pink, shading lighter to the edges. "*They resemble the French artificial roses we used to wear on our straw hats,*" says Mrs. Keays, in "Old Roses." Both buds and hips are so covered with bristles as to closely resemble a chestnut burr. With us, always in bloom; a truly remarkable rose.

"I could do a better description of your Chestnut Rose than yours, because I would add that in winter when it sheds its leaves, it still is beautiful with its gray-green mottled branches, the large lower branches shedding bark almost white like a sycamore, and the bush itself making a lacy pattern like a lovely lace doily."
—KITTY M. SIMPSON, SHREVEPORT. 2.00

Clio. H. P. (1894.) Produces freely, large globular blooms of satin flesh-pink, on long, graceful stems. Aroused the enthusiasm of old-rose master Roy Shepherd, Medina, Ohio, whose many thousand varieties leave him a bit blase to any but the best. 1.75

Clytemnestra. H. Musk. (1915.) A healthy, happy and very active climbing or pillar rose, blooming profusely and constantly throughout the entire season; its salmon-chamois, semi-double blooms come in clusters up to 20—mighty pretty, especially in fall, needing only an occasional snip of the pruning shears, when the old blooms are over-persistent. 1.75

Colette Clement. H. Tea. (1931.) We think Edna Betts Ketchum, of Pasadena, California will not object if we repeat her excellent description of this charming rose as it appeared in an American Rose Society Annual—"My favorite single is *Colette Clement* which has the most gorgeous coral-red petals I have ever seen. The margins are notched here and there and all are a little wavy. At the base of each petal is a splash of gold which tones in with the bright yellow stamens. Often the number of petals is twelve although more frequently there are eight. The foliage is glossy, dark green and mildew resistant. It might be interesting to mention that I placed cuttings of *Colette Clement* in sand under glass; they were transplanted to pots in May, and by August, they were in full bloom." Long stemmed, very vigorous to four feet; steady bloom. 1.50

Conrad F. Meyer. H. Rugosa (1899.) Lusty grower to ten feet, hence a fine pillar or background rose. "*A lovely silvery pink*," says Louise Beebe Wilder, and the T. Hilling Nursery of Surrey, England emphasizes particularly its intense fragrance and fine September display. As for us, our garden notes rate "AA" and we wish we had more of this famous old rugosa for 1950. 1.75

Coupe d'Hebe. H. Bourbon (1840.) Rivers, in his "Rose Amateur's Guide, London, 1843, has these enthusiastic comments—"Among Hybrid Bourbon roses we have two or three of recent introduction surpassingly beautiful; and to no rose can this term be applied with more justice than *Coupe d'Hebe*. In habit most robust, with foliage glossy, sub-evergreen and abundant; flowers large, and most perfect in shape, with petals thick and wax-like; colour delicate pink, changing to blush. So delicate and beautiful is this rose that no description can do justice to it." 1.50

Crimson Emblem. H. Tea (1916.) In characteristics more H. Perpetual than Tea. A big and husky six-footer; the blooms are large, cupped, with a tendency to close at night—luminous dark carmine, truly ravishing fragrance. Have admired this red rose from first sight in the Lester gardens, and said admiration "lingers on." 1.75

Dainty Bess. H. Tea. (1925.) The most universally loved single rose of them all. Rated 84% by the American Rose Society, given a First Class Trial Ground Certificate by the National Rose Society of England, acclaimed by amateurs and experts alike for its grand constitution, its steady blooming habit, and the graceful beauty of the large soft pink blooms, with their unique wine-red stamens. *We have both bush and climbing form.* 1.25

Dame Edith Helen. H. T. (1926.) A glowing pink, very large, double rose of noble proportions which has been absent too long from this catalog and now is in to stay. Wants good soil, sunny location and expert attention for top results. One perfect bloom of the good Dame is worth a dozen of some of the highly touted moderns. Rated the English National Rose Society's Gold Medal in its heyday and still wears it proudly. 1.50

Delicata. H. Rugosa (1898.) First fell in love with the illustration of *Delicata* in Bobbink & Atkins' fine catalog some years ago. With us, it is a large, soft mauve-pink, with that "tantalizing fragrance." Just about the prettiest Rugosa this writer has seen, smelled or read about. 1.75

Desiree Parmentier. Gallica. *Garden Notes.* "This is a somewhat smaller and much deeper toned globular rose of Coupe d'Hebe type. Apparently the sun quickly lightens the flower on the outside of the petals, whereas the inside remains a very deep, rich rose-carmine, almost blackish, giving a striking two-tone effect and outlining the petals. Older foliage is dark emerald green—the new growth lettuce-green with red prickles, very bushy. Very "distingue" is Mme. Parmentier." 1.75

Dr. Huey. (1920.) Climber. So healthy, hardy and vigorous, is now a leading California understock. Blooms profusely over a long spring season, in clusters of two inch semi-double flowers; color non-fading crimson-maroon, enlivened by lighter centers and yellow anthers. Says Dr. J. H. McFarland, "*Captain George C. Thomas, Jr. will be best remembered by his superb rose Dr. Huey, named for a famous Philadelphia amateur.*" 1.15

Duchesse de Brabant. Tea. (1857.) This delightful old tea rose is best described by Mrs. Keays, writing in "Old Roses," 1935, "*Duchesse de Brabant has the shape of a deeper, firmer cup, more like a tulip, with 45 upright petals. Light gives a pearly cast over the basic pink color deepening to bright rose, and creates a glistening brightness in the smooth, transparent petals of the large, well-stemmed bloom . . . this Duchesse has been a great favorite for years for its lovely sunny color, its splendid fragrance, and its free-blooming habit.*" 1.75

Ednah Thomas. Cli. H. Tea. (1931.) Close to top rating among the large flowered, double, salmon-pink climbers. Very vigorous . . . in profuse and almost constant bloom . . . a fine cut flower on good stems. Excellent always, and all ways. 1.50

Eglantine. Sweetbrier Rose. (Ancient.) It was the writer's great privilege to accompany the late Francis Lester on many walks through his garden—admiring investigating, sniffing—for his was a keen nose for good smells. Something about the apple-scented Eglantine, its age and tradition, its "Old English," as it appears at garden gate and round and about the simple Lester cottage, reminds me most of those walks, and is of deep and fragrant memory. But its charm is better told you by the old writers, to whom we will give, perhaps, more space than we should, hoping that you, too, may have pleasant memories of the Sweetbrier rose, and will enjoy reading their mellow words—

From "PLANTING AND RURAL ORNAMENT," London, 1796. "*Sweetbrier—The leaves constitute the value of this plant; for they are possessed of so grateful an odour, as to claim admittance for this sort into the first class of aromatic plants; the odoriferous particles they emit are sweet and inoffensive; and they bestow them in such profusion, especially in evenings or after a shower, as to perfume the circum-ambient air to a considerable distance. For this reason, plenty of Sweetbriers should be planted near much-frequented walks; or if the borders of these are designed for more elegant flowering shrubs or plants, they may be stationed at a distance, out of view, and then they will secretly liberally bestow their sweets, to the refreshment of all. For nosegays, also, there is nothing more proper than sprigs of the Sweetbrier, when divested of its prickles; for they will not only have a good look as a fine green in the center of a posey, but will improve its odour, let the other flowers of which it is composed be what they will.*"

And from the "so-quotable" Dean Hole, in a "BOOK ABOUT ROSES," England, 1869, "*So may the Sweetbrier, with no flowers to speak of, remind many a gaudy neighbor that fine feathers do not constitute a perfect bird, and that men have other senses as well as that of sight, to please . . . but the Eglantine to me, when I passed through 'The Sweet Garden,' as it is called, just after a soft May shower, had the sweetest scent of them all.*" 1.50

Everest. H. P. (1927.) "*Bigger than colossal*" is this handsome many-petalled lemon-white rose . . . another variety which dislikes the ocean and loves the full, warm sun. In the right environment unbeatable among white roses. 1.75

Excelsa. Rambler (1909.) Flowers over a long Spring period only—great masses of double, cup-shaped blooms in a striking blend of Tyrian rose and magenta tones—the effect brilliant, almost dazzling. The catalogue writer seeking descriptive comparisons, gives up on this one—nothing quite like it. 1.50

Fanny Bias. Gallica (1819.) "*Among the best of the Gallica clan*" says authority Roy Shepherd. A fine, bushy, dark-green plant, producing mostly in clusters of fat buds, opening to double 3" blooms of soft warm pink, aging slowly to lovely mauve tones . . . and "*fragrance such as our first parents breathed in Eden.*" 1.50

Felberg's Rosa Druschki. The good Frau married to Farbenkonigin (what's in a name) produced a beautiful soft-pink with all the excellent bloom and plant characteristics which have made Druschki famous for nearly fifty years. Charming! 1.75

F. J. Grootendorst. H. Rugosa. (1918.) This and its companion the Pink Grootendorst, listed later, should be in every rose garden, where more variety than a mere bevy of hybrid tea beauties is desired. Plant is vigorous, disease proof, easily kept within bounds, and has the characteristic handsome rugose foliage. Blooms are in clusters, bright red in some locations, crimson in others, its unique feature being the serrated edges which almost exactly resemble a carnation; in constant and profuse bloom. You will like it. 1.50

Francis E. Lester. (1947.) Of all the many seedlings developed by Mr. Lester, in hybridization with his favorite rose Kathleen, this one he considered the finest, and we think is most worthy to bear his name. From its Musk rose origin, comes its tremendous vigour, and its great masses of bloom—for many weeks the finest display in the spring garden. Flowers are in clusters of 25 to 30, about two inches across, opening pale pink, turning white, then drop quickly when finished. Among all our mass spring-flowering climbers, none are more beautiful. 1.50

Frau Karl Druschki. H. Perpetual. (1901.) Considering the many names which have been given this grand old rose, probably "Snow Queen" is the most appropriate, because of its pure whiteness, and queenly form. Has every virtue except fragrance—tall, vigorous, large foliage, and free flowering, especially profuse in spring. The standard for white roses, seldom if ever excelled. 1.25

General Jacqueminot. H. Perpetual. (1853.)

" 'Twas a Jacqueminot rose that she gave me at parting,
Sweetest flower that blows, 'twas a Jacqueminot rose
In the love-garden close with the swift blushes starting,
'Twas a Jacqueminot rose that she gave me at parting."

Again we will let Mrs. Keays describe for you, from "Old Roses," a fine old favorite—"This rose was raised by an amateur named Roussel and was introduced by Rousselet, his gardener, in 1853. What joy it must have been to grow a rose of such elegance of form, brilliancy of color, high fragrance, and hardy growth . . . The bloom is not full, probably 24 to 30 petals, globular in form, quite large, very striking, of brilliant scarlet-crimson, richly fragrant . . . Of good habit and proud port." Says Dean Hole, in his "Book About Roses," 1865—"General Jacqueminot, for so many summers THE Rose of our gardens, is still a glory and a grace, its petals, soft and smooth as velvet, glowing with vivid crimson, and its growth being free and healthful. I well remember the time when we welcomed this conquering hero, in his brilliant uniform, as being invincible." 1.50

George Arends. H. Perpetual. (1910.) A symmetrical but lusty plant, blooming mostly in singles—very large, double, beautifully formed, with a unique crinkle to the petals. Its coloring we find only in our prime favorite, Mrs. John Laing—delicate China Rose or Mauve Pink—a tone which appears to have been lost in modern roses. Free and constant flowering—among the very best of our hybrid perpetuals—rare fragrance. 1.50

Georges Vibert. Gallica (1853.) One of the most interesting of the varigated Gallicas, deep magenta-rose, striped white. Funny how many visitors first stop to express disapproval of these unique, striped old roses, only to return and look again, with pencil and pad in hand. 1.75

Giant of Battles. (Geant des Battailes.) H. P. (1846.) After viewing our display plants this spring, we recorded—"*Certainly no fighting giant at this inspection, for either war or peaceful pursuits,*" but then he had been toying with our California gophers, who are not fame-conscious. On viewing this Goliath later in our growing fields, we can understand why he rates among the famous old roses. Deep fiery crimson; powerfully fragrant. 1.50

Gloire de Chedane Guinoisseau. H. Perpetual (1907.) Yes, we know, you don't like the name, and think it should be distributed over a couple of additional varieties. But "a rose is a rose is a rose"—name notwithstanding. Fiery crimson-red blooms, richly fragrant and lots of them spring and fall. Says Roy Shepherd—"If this plant had a more appealing name it would rank with Druschki and General Jacqueminot among the best of the Hybrid Perpetuals. In plant habit, foliage, color, form, fragrance and productivity it is GOOD!" 1.50

Gloire de Dijon. Climbing Tea (1853.) "Sunset hues in its heart" nicely says Dr. McFarland, but for real enthusiasm, we must quote once again from Dean Hole, in 1865—

"I obey at once the legate of my Queen. I lose no time in stating that the best Climbing Rose with which I am acquainted is that which has just announced itself, Gloire de Dijon, commonly classed with the Tea scented China Roses, but more closely resembling the Noisette family in its robust growth and hardy constitution. Planted against a wall having a southern or eastern aspect, it grows, when once fairly established, with a wonderful luxuriance. I have just measured a lateral on one of my plants, and of the last year's growth, and found it to be 19 feet in length, and the bole of another at the base to be nearly ten inches in circumference. The latter grows on the chancel wall of my church, and has often had three hundred flowers upon it in full and simultaneous bloom; nor will the reader desire to arraign me for superstitious practices before a judicial committee when he hears that to this Rose I make daily obeisance, because in passing into my church, I must duck to preserve my eyesight. Its flowers are the earliest and latest; it has symmetry, size, endurance, colour, fine tints—buff, yellow, orange, fawn, salmon, and perfume! It is what cricketers call an 'all-rounder,' good in every point for wall, arcade, pillar, standard, dwarf, en masse or singly." The good Dean leaves us nothing more to say, except the price. 2.00



Green Rose. (1856.) Whenever we book an order for this rose, we are fearful lest our good customer may be expecting something in form and substance like *Crimson Glory*, except in sea-foam green or *Chinese Jade*. Certainly this rose is an interesting novelty—"the April fool rose," says Iva Newman, patly; but for beauty, it has only "ugh!" Its flowers are no flowers at all but a strange and quite unexplained freak of foliage; the buds open to double leaf green "flowers," edged with bronze. If you seek "something different," here it is.

(P.S. The writer named his kitten "Ugh," after this rose; she isn't "green" but she's "different!") 1.50

Gros Provins Panache. Gallica. Roy Shepherd and Mrs. Lester must have exchanged views on this one, as both use the same words—"most interesting and attractive of all the Gallicas." Color violet-purple, streaked white. As for the catalog writer, he remains true to *Variegata di Bologna*, although admitting the quality of the competition. 1.75

Gruss an Teplitz. China (1897.) Gordon M. Beals of Omaha, so excels our former anemic description, we hasten to quote his words—"Gruss an Teplitz can't be planted in a bed with *H. Teas*, for it will grow up and around and over them, almost to lilac bush proportions. I planted four with other *H. Teas* and in three years had to tear up the whole bed to get them off by themselves. With 270 roses, including the best of the old and new, I sometimes find myself liking these four plants the best of them all. When I get within 15 feet of them on a 105 degree day, what a fragrance! Hundreds of blooms, sometimes as red as *Christopher Stone* and always pretty." Now I suppose most of you will shy away from Teplitz, fearing to put him within nodding distance of your other roses—wonder if Mr. Beals lost his pruning shears? 1.25

Hadley. H. Tea. (1914.) No amount of criticism will weaken our admiration for this handsome red rose, which needs only a warm sunny spot, or a shot of sulphur dust if the spring rains are too persistent. Its rich, deep crimson tone, fine form, and wonderful fragrance, plus its excellent blooming habit, can give cards and spades to most of the newer red roses. "When better red roses than Hadley are grown, we will grow them."

Available in both bush and climbing form—please specify. 1.25

Harison's Yellow. H. Foetida. (1830.) The old-fashioned yellow brier rose of our grandparents, brought to California in the Gold Rush days of '49. Grows to six feet; fern-like rich green foliage; flowers—small, semi-double, bright yellow, in profuse Spring bloom only. Needs no coddling.

We add the words of Louise Beebe Wilder, 1916—"Harisoni, that simple, loose petalled, soft yellow rose so lavish in its toll to passing June and so eloquent of old gardens and the days when simple things were the best beloved." 1.50

Henri Foquier. Gallica (old). Deep-rose colored buds open to a silvery lilac-pink—a different tint from anything else we have . . . and most attractive. Fragrance likewise, different and delightful. 1.50



*I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxslips and the nodding violet grows;
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk roses and with eglantine.*

—MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.



ISOBEL—EVER CHARMING

Henry Nevard. H. Perpetual (1924.) *Garden Notes* ——"Among the most important and worthwhile of our recent additions and a strong rival to General Jacqueminot and Prince Camille. The blooms are very large, full, of richest carmine aging slowly to amethyst tones characteristic of these old dark-red roses, except there is a lustre and life in the color superior to most of them." Says Roy Shepherd—"Near the top of the heap in its class; intensely fragrant; nice plant-recurrent." 1.50

Hermosa. China. (1840.) Once again we call on Mrs. Keays to describe a favorite and delicately beautiful old rose. "*Hermosa 1840, sometimes Armosa, for long years everybody's darling and still the darling of many because of deep associations; a Rose of so definite and pure a pink, or delicate rose-color, that 'Hermosa-Pink' has become a standard by which to translate a certain shade. Hermosa is very double, cupped, in a refined and perfect form, of small size, fragrant, lasting well, showing a very close relationship to the China rose, and sometimes classed as a China. Hermosa is a steady, consistent, generous bloomer, on shoots bearing branching clusters, always gay, fresh and cheerful.*"

"Each bloom is a work of art," says Neville Miller, Palmerton, Pa. . . . or was it Mrs. Miller—*she's* the artist of the family. 1.50

Hon. Lady Lindsay. Shrub. (1938.) *Garden Notes*—"We really have something here! Very distinctive, pale, dusky buff-pink; smartly formed flowers in clusters mostly of three; very glossy, ivy-green foliage. Rates among the best of our newer additions for its unusual color tones; strong tea fragrance." 1.50



"Much of the charm of gardening consists in the everchanging pageant of bloom and color that sweeps across the seasons; hence I never have much sympathy for the person who wishes for everblooming plants and shrubs. How monotonous it would be if lilacs, tulips, iris, peonies or even roses bloomed all the time! There would be no eager expectancy, no looking forward to future bloom and changing vistas in the gardens."

—MARGARET SNYDER, BREEZE HILL, HARRISBURG, PA.



Hortulanus Budde. H. Tea (1919.) One of those big, lush, deep fiery-red roses, with rare fragrance, far too good to be elbowed out of most rose catalogues, by less worthy newcomers. And besides, a name like *that*, has the right to survive! 1.50

Hugonis. Golden Rose of China. "Most important shrub rose of recent times" says Dr. McFarland in his *"Roses of the World."* In our garden, its fern-like foliage of varying shades, and its mass of single, clear yellow flowers along the tall canes, is a special Spring delight. To Roy E. Shepherd of Medina, Ohio, writing in the American Rose Society annual, we are indebted for the following, "*R. Hugonis grows vigorously under conditions that would be fatal to others. Although catalogued as reaching a height of six feet, I have succeeded in growing it to over 12 feet by planting it in very poor soil. The 2½" yellow blossoms are produced along the entire length of the long arching canes.*"

Says authority, Dr. J. H. Nicolas in 1934—"Species roses should never be manured and some positively refuse to bloom in rich soil. For instance, *Hugonis*—the poorer the soil the better and more abundant the bloom." Any poor soil begging for roses in your garden? 1.50

Innocence. H. Tea. (1921.) A five inch, 12 petalled rose, of purest white, with wine-red stamens, in profuse bloom all season; its one fault—no fragrance. Strong, healthy plant, with dark, disease-resistant foliage. (Apropos of nothing at all, of course—out of six rose enthusiasts of the "weaker" sex, only one was able to spell Innocence correctly!) 1.25

Irish Elegance. H. Tea. (1905.) Tall, strong, ever-blooming plant, with nice clean foliage. Blooms are large, five petalled, and vary with the seasons from a bronzy, deep peach touched scarlet, to lighter apricot hues. A favorite bouquet rose of Mrs. Lester's and liked by many. The writer prefers Irish Fireflame for its stronger coloring. 1.25

Irish Fireflame. H. Tea. (1914.) A large, single rose of rare beauty—long spiral crimson buds, open to old gold, splashed crimson blooms, frequently five inches across. Another leading bouquet rose in the Lester household. Its bronze foliage is unusually handsome; tall grower. 1.25

Isobel. H. Tea. (1916.) Probably the largest of all the single roses and certainly among the most beautiful; the long copper buds open to flaming pink. Erect, healthy, and unexcelled in its class. 1.25



Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria. H. Tea. (1891.) Medium, upright grower, producing all season, large, double, snow-white blooms of fine form, on long stems. Shares top honors with Frau Karl Druschki, as the best, all-round standard white rose. 1.25

Kathleen. H. Moschata. (1922.) No-one has described this lovely rose so well as Mr. Lester, with whom it had long been a special favorite, not only for its unique beauty, but because it was a parent of many of his own best creations. We quote extracts from his writings—

"Kathleen has a strong shrub habit of growth; its large, leathery foliage is very attractive, remaining on the plant in this climate all the year. It is entirely resistant to disease or insect pests. The flowers come in huge clusters from early spring to late frosts, each individual bloom well spaced from its companions, like a glorified apple blossom, fragrant with the old musk rose scent. These flowers are followed by huge orange hips, lasting all winter, indoors or out . . . In this altogether lovely rose, Kathleen, we have a simple beauty that even the hardened modern cannot resist. It is a descendant of the old Musk rose from which it gets its exquisite fragrance and from which it inherits its vigor and extraordinary resistance to neglect. I grow this rose in both deep shade and full sun, in good soil and in the poorest, and have come to greatly respect its tolerance for adverse conditions. Its flowers display an open countenance and an intimate charm—the kind of rose that will talk to you, if you understand its language." 1.75

Kazanlik. R. Damascena. (Ancient.) This is the famed perfume rose of the Balkans, grown there for generations in the production of attar of roses. Flowers are semi-double, in clusters mostly three to five, about 2½ inches across, rosy pink. Plant is bushy, spreading, about four feet tall, well shaped and "with a bright and happy look." 1.50

Lady Penzance. Sweetbrier. (1894.) A lovely sweetbrier with long, graceful, drooping branches, and a spring crop of bright copper-colored single flowers. Its foliage is delicately apple-scented. No garden however small, should be without at least a few of these fragrant Sweetbriers, giving so generously of their delightful odor.

"The Briers are an enchanting race. Long limbed and graceful, bearing for the most part single blossoms and lovely colors, and boasting a delicious fragrance both in flower and leaf. They may be trained against pillars and trellises, used to form hedges or allowed to grow as I love them best, into great free bushes." —LOUISE BEEBE WILDER, 1916. 1.75



La France. H. Tea. (1867.) This is the first Hybrid Tea variety, which alone, should justify a place of honor in every rose garden. But La France needs no historical interest to merit that honor—the large, very double, silvery pink blooms, delightfully fragrant, are reason enough. We quote again from Mrs. Keays in “Old Roses”—“*With pleasure we relate the ancestry of this lovely forerunner of a great class, a rose which ‘has staying powers which in horses and athletes win the race,’ says Dean Hole. From various sources we gather the story that Mme. Bravy, a Tea rose of 1848, cream white, large and full, symmetrical and fragrant, beautiful and much admired, was pollenized with Mme. Victor Verdier, a Hybrid Perpetual of 1863, carmine-crimson, large and full, fragrant and of globular shape, considered outstanding in that class of superb roses. The result was La France.*” This fine old rose is especially beautiful in climbing form.

From the “Heart of a Garden,” by Rosamund Marriott Watson, we quote—“*Brave in bright rose and silver, and scented like the gardens of Hesperides, that favored plot which contains my many bushes of LaFrance is a place whereby to linger and give thanks. There are moments when I stay, loitering in the late blue twilight, to wonder whether there is any one of the pink roses quite so well-worth growing.*” Both bush and climbers available—please specify. 1.75

Lamarque. Noisette (1830.) Again, Rosamund Marriott Watson, writing from London in 1905, tells the story far better than could we—“*This first summer month that brings the rose has brought an unaccustomed wealth of bloom to that little known and half-forgotten masterpiece, my Lamarque, of whose possession I am, perhaps, not unjustly vain. The merit, however, of setting it where it still glorifies the worn stone coping of the ancient red brick wall belongs not to me, but to some beneficent Unknown, who planted roses some seventy years since. I would I might leave behind as sweet a monument. The flowers are of the purest white—the dense white of the water-lily, and their great moon-pale cups lie open wide, like marble blossoms carved in low relief, exhaling an exquisite odor. Think of the mingled virtues of lily and rose in one, and you may forshadow some dim likeness of the Lamarque, should you not be so fortunate as to know it already.*” After such word music as this, think I will buy one myself. 1.75

La Rubanee. (Village Maid) Gallica (1845.) Says famous authority, William Paul, writing from England, 1903—“*The flowers of Village Maid are white, striped with rose and purple, the stripes varying in breadth, sometimes the one and sometimes the other colour predominating. They are large and full, cupped and very pleasing.*” 1.75

Little Compton Creeper. Brownell (1938.) *Garden Notes* — “Certainly a ground cover, shooting long canes in all directions. Foliage rather small, glossy, lettuce-green—tendency to turn autumnal on the older wood, with pleasing effect. Blooms mostly in singles, about 3 inches, 5 petals. Color rose with lighter centers and prominent stamens. Petals of good substance, maintaining nice form until shatters. Looks mighty good!” 1.75

Lorraine Lee. H. Gigantea. (1924.) A very vigorous, free and recurrent blooming climber, producing well-formed double blooms in rich shades of rose, apricot and pink. Foliage especially glossy and handsome. We are glad to have this outstanding climber back on our list. 1.50



Flowers have their moods of happiness and sorrow and their time of sleep.

—YUAN CHUNGLANG, 16TH CENTURY



THE BEAUTIFUL TEA ROSE—MAMAN COCHET



Lucie Marie. H. Tea. (1930.) "Bounteous" is the word for Lucie . . . both plant habit and bloom are lush and opulent, far beyond the average hybrid tea. "Buttercup yellow shaded salmon-cerise" is the color, says the originator, but Doctor Gage, Arcadia, California, has a word to say also—"A luscious color in cool weather and in the hot sun it turns a delicate brown. You may have your 'Green Rose' . . . I'll take Lucie Marie, the 'Brown Rose'." No deal, Doctor . . . me for Lucie, too! 1.50

Magic Carpet. Brownell (1941.) We are putting the Brownell creeping roses under this segregation, certainly not because they date "old-fashioned" but because they are "different." *From our Garden Notes* —"This looks like a honey! Very smartly formed, small buds with rose-gold centers, open to a 3" very flat, pleasing yellow bloom, paling to the outside petals. Foliage dark emerald-green, glossy. Exceptionally pretty."

Spring 1949. One of the outstanding memories of this writer's spring tour was the long bank of Brownell and other creeping roses in great mass bloom, along the border of the beautiful Breeze Hill garden at Harrisburg, Pa. 1.75

Magna Charta. H. Perpetual (1876.) A grand old rose, broad-shouldered and lusty, producing big globular, full-petalled blooms, mostly in clusters of 3, bright rose-pink suffused magenta. The fragrance needs a new and powerful adjective—will one of the Magna Charta's many admirers supply, please. 1.50

Maman Cochet. Tea. (1893.) Another great favorite of the Lester Gardens, but only for mild climates. Flowers are large to 4 inches, very double and fragrant. Its special feature is its unique color—sometimes pale pink, sometimes cream, beautifully shaded with various tones of rose. Highly recommended.

Both bush and climber.

1.75

Marie Louise. Damask (Grown in the Gardens of Malmaison 1813.) A fast growing, spreading plant, with clean, long-pointed foliage. Well formed rose-pink blooms in small clusters, hold their color to the end. Says Neville Miller, Pennsylvania—"This is a lovely low-growing variety; holds a hybrid tea bud form for a week then opens wide to a many-petalled cushion, with intense fragrance. Foliage is dark green and healthy similar to York & Lancaster." And Roy Shepherd adds—"Hard to beat in its class." 1.75

Marie Tudor. Gallica. The Gallicas are the gayest and maddest members of the whole rose family, very partial to stripes and strange and vivid color combinations. This one is salmon-pink, marbled or blotched white . . . not to be planted too close to the "respectable roses" please. 1.75

Marechal Niel. Noisette. (1864.) "A celebrity among climbing roses," still unexcelled in the clear, golden-yellow class, when planted in warm, sunny locations, not hardy in severe climates. Says Mrs. Keays, in "Old Roses"—"*The Primrose way of yellow Tea-Noisettes leads us to this loveliest of the solidly golden-yellow climbing roses. Very large and deep, full to the brim, very highly scented, very lasting on the plant or cut for the house; a rose to be looked up to, from below, as the stem is weak for the huge globular bloom. Marechal Niel caused a great sensation when it came out, and causes the like now wherever it is grown and blooms.*"

And from Dean Hole, 1869—" . . . Since the time when a baby in floriculture, I first began to take notice of Roses, more than thirty years ago, three new stars of special brightness have glittered in our firmament—Gloire de Dijon, Charles Lefebvre, and Marechal Niel. The latter is, I think, the greatest acquisition, because we had no hardy Yellow Rose, previous to its introduction, realizing, as Marechal Niel does, in the wonderful beauty of its pendant flowers, their size, shape, colour, fragrance, longevity and abundance—our every desire and hope." 1.75

Marjorie W. Lester. (1947.) Our parent plant is shooting strong canes in all directions and is going to require considerable pruning to hold it within reasonable bounds. Blooms are in clusters of about 60; opens first to 1½ inch soft-pink centifolia type, paling slowly to very delicate warm lavender—the whole effect being one of rare daintiness both in color and in form. Certainly one of the most charming roses in the garden and appropriately named.

Summer, 1948. Your reporter is somewhat handicapped in again describing this rose, by the presence of Mrs. Lester herself, who has that "say it if you dare" expression, as she stands note-book in hand. Women, as all men know, are naturally vain. But notwithstanding man's desire to keep said vanity subdued, honesty forces this admission—"Marjorie Lester" is the most delicately beautiful old rose in the garden, this spring, and I repeat last year's comment—it is appropriately named . . . (Mrs. Lester has just "swallowed her . . . gum.")

Summer 1949. Confidentially I think Mrs. Lester rather expected a considerable quantity of "replacements" . . . she did receive one large package . . . from me. 1.50

Marshall P. Wilder. H. Perpetual (1885.) We discard our own enthusiastic notes for the words of Neville Miller, Pennsylvania—"Planted near our front steps beside a plant of Peace, Marshall P. Wilder calls forth more favorable comments from visitors than the modern rose. Intense red with a satin finish, accentuated by wavy petals; blooms come from the top and sides. The perfume is Damask with just enough Gallica to lend interest. Foliage, in size and color, exactly sets off the flowers. A classic among all Hybrid Perpetuals." 1.50

Mermaid. H. Bracteata. (1918.) We cannot think of Mermaid except in association with Frank Lester, and the beautiful specimen plant which he trained over the Lester Rose Garden sign carved by his own hand. Much has been written about Mermaid, in highest praise, but no-one has excelled the clarity and honesty of his own words which follow, because, perhaps, his admiration was so great—

"A Climbing Rose of inexpressible beauty, quite different to any other, strongly recommended by us for all climates since introducing some years hence, each year with heartier response and greater praise. The wax-like, leathery, deep-green foliage is quite disease proof and, in mild climates, quite evergreen. The enormous, single, yellow, deliciously fragrant flowers, each with its great mass of golden stamens, are of rare beauty and borne continuously all through the season. Seedling of Rosa Bracteata, a fine Asiatic Wild Rose, it withstands neglect and is quite free from attacks of the usual rose pests. Can be grown as climber with support up to twelve feet, but is best suited to low wall or fence, on a bank, or as massive, handsome garden shrub." LESTER CATALOGUE 1933. 1.75

Mme. Alfred Carriere. Noisette (1879.) A blush-white, vigorous climber, with a great mass of spring bloom, recurring throughout the season; large double, globular and intensely fragrant. Fairly covers the west end of the Lester cottage and insists on entering the upper window. Like most roses of its type, old canes should be removed occasionally for maximum bloom. 1.50

Mme. Butterfly. H. Tea. (1918.) We are strong admirers of the fine old Ophelia, and Mme. Butterfly is its favorite child. Deeper in color—"Pink, faintly tinted gold," sweetly fragrant, gracefully formed—rated by the National Rose Society, "best of its type." 1.50

Mme. d'Hebray. Centifolia. (1820.) In our spring garden notes, appears the following—"This has turned out to be one of the most attractive of our 'new' old roses. Its blooms seem unaffected by any of our pests and its fragrance is delightful; is the typical cup-shaped, many petalled Centifolia. Color clear, lasting, gentle pink. Blooms in clusters of three to six. Healthy, vigorous, many caned bush." Mrs. L. says "wonderful!" 1.75

Mme. Gregoire Staechlin. (Spanish Beauty.) Creation of the famed Spanish expert, Pedro Dot. A very lusty, climbing hybrid perpetual, blooming lavishly from laterals in spring and early summer. "Its fairy-airy pink loveliness reminds one of that sweet young thing who passes you at garden parties, looking cool, fresh, and altogether charming, in organdie and garden hat, while you are perspiring in your best wool Sunday suit."

Summer 1949. Forgive our oversight, Mme. Staechlin . . . we have only just discovered you are the Bagatelle Gold Medal winner of 1928! 1.50

Mme. Hardy. Damask. (1832.) We repeat our statement in last year's catalogue—"the finest of its Damask type," with the added emphasis and enthusiasm of another season's experience. There is something so jewel-like, so exquisitely perfect in the arrangement of its many pure white petals, it might well serve as a model for Tiffany. Nature, thinking better of its almost austere creation, has added a touch of palest pink in the center. Just another over-enthusiasm of ours, you say? Well, here are the words of Bobbink & Atkins, who should know, "*We consider it the most beautiful and fragrant of the white old fashioned Roses.*"

We are again indebted to Mrs. Leonard J. Black, Hawthorne, Calif. "*Mme. Hardy is a shrine in the garden. Her blossoms, like Longfellow's lovely stars are the 'forget-me-nots of the angels'. It is all you say and all Mrs. Delph says,—I just breath amen!*" 2.00

Mme. Jules Bouche. H. Tea (1911.) We are happy to have still another quote from our analytical rose-friend, Gordon Beals of Omaha—"With me, this one rates either at the top of them all or next to it. It has three qualities good and different, I've never seen stressed in a catalog description—

1. It produces an exceptional number of blooms per season.

2. Blooms have a blush center in spring, but are larger and pure white in late fall; petals have a sort of translucence (you spell it) I haven't seen in other roses.

3. The stems, tho unusually thin and graceful, still hold the blooms upright, after a rainy day has pulled down to the ground, the big thick-stemmed varieties.

4. (For good measure)—Out of 97 varieties including such good "smellers" as *The Doctor*, *Will Rogers*, *Crimson Glory* and *Heart's Desire*—Mme. Jules has the sweetest fragrance, and, next to *Gruss an Teplitz*, the most powerful. Wonder if we could induce Mr. Beals to write ALL the catalogue descriptions for our "truth about a rose" critics.

Bush and Climbing.

1.50

Mme. Victor Verdier. H. Perpetual (1863.) "Classical" is the type for Madame. Everything about her is big, and curvey, from plant growth to the clusters of fat red buds, which cover her from top to toe over a long spring season. She stands (or better, sits) at the foot of the path leading to the hill garden; there is a "come-hither" about her which is almost a bit "bawdy"—if you will pardon the expression. (Gentlemen gardeners may safely order.)

1.50

Mrs. Anthony Waterer. H. Rugosa. (1898.) We have viewed this beautiful and unusual rose under many conditions, here and elsewhere, and consider it one of the most interesting, in our collection. Plants are strong growers, the handsome ribbed foliage most attractive except in the late season, and its deep crimson almost purple blooms are unlike any other rose we know. Intensely fragrant, profuse and constant flowering.

Garden Notes. "Even the 'anti-blue' visitors stop to look at this royal-purple beauty 'embroidered in green chenille', and when they get their first whiff of its exquisite fragrance, Mrs. Waterer is usually recorded on the 'must' list. Good friend, Dr. Marshall of Watsonville, says this rose has the finest odor of anything in his large garden. This is a real compliment; take a bow, my good lady."

1.50

Mrs. John Laing. H. Perpetual (1887.) We quote from B & A catalogue, *Clear pink; double; very sweet. Blooms continually; 45 petals.*" Come now, Mr. Bobbink, is this description fair to a lovely lady? Still rated by us this season, among the most delicately, illusively beautiful roses in our display gardens—silver-pink. Says master word-artist, Dean Hole—"Not only in vigour, constancy and abundance, but in form and features, *Beauty's Queen*."

1.50

Mrs. Wakefield Christie-Miller. H. Tea (1909.) A McGredy creation in rare tones of blush, salmon and vermilion-rose—seldom seen in today's catalogues, but much too fine to be lost in the rush of newer varieties.

1.50



Red is the most vital color of life, Yellow the most dominating, Blue is spiritual and soft; Green is the mystical color, grateful to the senses. All pale tints harmonize except yellow which is the dominating color of nature.

Musk Rose. R. Moschata. This is the wild brier rose of the Himalayas, of enormous vigour, its great canes, frequently growing to unbelievable lengths in a single season. For us it thrives and blooms profusely, in sun, and almost full shade, but nothing can stop its lust for living. Certainly not a rose to be confined in a tiny city lot but wherever it can fountain in great canes, or ride a fence or cover some unsightly spot, the Musk Rose is unexcelled. The magnificent corymbs of two inch, five petalled, white flowers, through a long spring season, inspire more "ahs and oohs" than anything in the display gardens. And any who know not the strange illusive scent of the Musk Rose, have something rare in store for them.

The "Rose Amateur's Guide," Rivers, London, 1843, offers the following, too good to omit—"The White Musk Rose is one of the oldest inhabitants of our gardens and probably more widely spread over the face of the earth than any other rose. It is generally supposed that the attar of roses is prepared in India from this species, and that this is also the rose of the Persian poets, in the fragrant groves of which they love to describe their 'bulbul' or nightingale, as enchanting them with its tuneful notes. It is much more fragrant in the evening, and probably in the hot climate of Persia, only so in the coolness of night, when nightingales delight to sing." 1.50

Musk Seedlings. (un-named.) Since the passing of Francis Lester in December 1945, we have been watching the performance of his many climbing seedlings of Musk parentage, feeling that some of them were far too good to die with him. Out of ten, we like best two—one labelled "Musk Double Seedling," a really stupendous spring bloomer, with heavenly fragrance . . . the other, "Seedling No. 5" which adds an edging of rose pink to the natural beauty of the Musks, and, to our great satisfaction has turned out to be a steady, all-season bloomer. In order to introduce these lovely roses and register customer-reaction before naming, we will sell the limited quantity, each for 1.00

Narcisse de Salvandy. Gallica (1843.) A large spreading plant, with characteristic clean, warm-green foliage. Blooms mostly in clusters, 5-6, very double, rose-pink, aging nicely to a rich darker tone . . . has that delicate illusive odor. We rate among our top Gallicas. 1.50

Nova Zembla. H. Rugosa (1907.) A vigorous sport of the favorite pink Conrad F. Meyer. Bears generously, large, double, cupped blooms of white, usually tinted pale pink. We would like an entirely new and very expressive adjective here, as this is no ordinary rose. 1.50

Old Blush. China. (1796.) Inspiration for the poet Moore's immortal poem, "The Last Rose of Summer." We call immediately on Mrs. Keays—whose description is not only charmingly written, but is a fair and accurate judgment—

"Rising from the base in strong, upright stalks, each stalk branching into side shoots, with clusters of bloom at the ends and side shoots, Old Blush China is a rose to reckon with, for no other rose, old or modern, unless it be Old Blush's child, the early type Noisette, blooms in more abandoned freedom, taking only a short rest between bursts of bloom. Each rose in the cluster is a fluttering loose assemblage of pink petals, deeper in the outer petals, whiter at the base, varying in depth of pinkness. Not fully double, with large petals, fine and lasting, the impression is one of airiness and gaiety . . . Old Blush is a rose to visit often, for being of a true everblooming habit it goes on its gay way all summer and until cut by frost. The fragrance has a sweetness dashed with a sort of acid or astringent counter-scent, very different from other sweet scents, not strong but stimulating and refreshing—difficult to convey in words." 1.75

Old Spanish Rose. Gallica. (Original name unknown.) This big shrub rose was discovered by the Lesters on one of their journeys through the Mother Lode Country—where it was known only as the “Old Spanish Rose,” and no amount of research since has discovered a more accurate name for it. From early to late spring, it is covered with two inch double blooms, similar in form to the Provence Roses, starting from deep, rich magenta, which progresses to dark violet in the open flower. For best effect it must be helped in “shedding its dead” otherwise the beauty of the opening buds is marred by the older blooms, which are much too persistent in their desire to remain. Thrives on neglect with us and should be hardy anywhere. 1.50

Ophelia. H. Tea. (1912.) This is a very famous parent rose, 28 of her children having been judged worthy of commercial propagation, although we suspect grandmother, herself, is still the best of the lot, (unless it be Mme. Butterfly, previously described.) We like Ophelia for the rare delicacy of its flesh-pink coloring, its satiny sheen, and handsome form. Steady, dependable bloomer; good plant. *Bush only.* 1.50

Paul Neyron. H. Perpetual. (1869.) A lusty, robust grower to four or five feet, with heavy spring bloom, continuing with us. We like Mrs. Keay's description which follows—“*Paul Neyron, 1869, raised from Anna de Diesbach and Victor Verdier, is an achievement. Wood is almost smooth, almost without prickles; foliage very large, smooth, tough and wavy. The bloom is enormous, deeply cupped, reflexing its outer petals, opening into a ruffling semi-globe of deep rose-pink with a dash of lilac, much like LaReine but, point to point, bigger and more handsomely furnished, with a calyx even more triangular in outline. Paul Neyron chooses to live long in old gardens and is likely to be met with almost anywhere. When you see the biggest rose you ever saw in an old garden, most likely it is Paul Neyron.*” 1.50

Penelope. H. Musk (1924.) This is a Pemberton cross of Ophelia with one of his Musk seedlings, which produced a perpetual blooming shrub rose, coming in clusters of large, semi-double flowers, shell-pink, shaded saffron. Another year's observation places Penelope along with the best of our recent additions. We were pleased to see that the well-known English nurseryman, T. Hilling, gives Penelope a “discreet” pat on the back. 1.75

Persian Yellow H. Foetida. (From Persia to England 1837.) Unique in every respect, from its fern-like foliage, to the manner in which its rich, butter-yellow blooms are borne along the large canes. Dean Hole says—“*This Rose is almost the earliest to tell us that summer is at hand, first by unfolding its sweet leaves, of a most vivid, refreshing green, and then by its golden blooms.*”

To Louise Beebe Wilder, writing in 1916, we are indebted for the following—“*The yellow briars are lovely, planted in wide borders with white and purple lilacs—lavender, white and buff flag iris—pink, white and blue lupines.*” 1.50

Phyllis Bide. Rambler (1923.) Blooms profusely and constantly; the small, semi-double cluster blooms are pale gold, with heart of warm pink and peach tones. A restrained climber and tidy pillar rose—long a favorite in the Lester Gardens. Will master-rosarian, John van Barneveld, of Puente, please see to it that no more of the beautiful Phyllis Bide weeping trees which adorn his entrance are permitted to disappear. 1.50





Pink Grootendorst. H. Rugosa. (1923.) A strong, lusty, upright grower, with handsome rugose foliage, completely disease resistant. This is the "carnation rose" its petals almost exactly resembling a small carnation. As this catalogue is written, its beautiful clusters of soft pink flowers are one of the prettiest sights in the fall garden. 1.35

Polly. H. Tea. (1927.) A robust lass, is Polly—descendant from Ophelia, mother of many fine roses, from whom comes its delicate shell-pink coloring, sometimes cream, shaded pink and gold, in autumn. Very fragrant, double and well formed. The National Rose Society says of Polly—" . . . *not liable to disease; does not mind wet.* Awarded a First Class Trial Ground Certificate." 1.35

President de Seze. Gallica. This rose deserves a feminine title, as its exceptionally lovely form and delicate violet-satin coloring belong to no mere male president . . . and certainly no president, not even "our Harry" ever "smelled" like this one. Very bushy, attractive warm green foliage, and a wealth of bloom. 1.50

Prince Camille de Rohan. H. Perpetual. (1861.) This regal rose of darkest, velvety maroon-red, is planted in our display garden, among a group of such famous modern roses as Lowell Thomas, Fred Edmunds, Grande Duchesse Charlotte, Peace, Christopher Stone, and others of similar merit. While these newcomers were struggling against the hot summer sun, the aristocratic old Prince burst forth with some breath-taking blooms, and, from his tall position, seemed to look down on the *nouveau riche*, with pride of race and royal disdain. 1.75

Princesse de Bearne. H. P. (1885.) Has all the good, husky qualities of its race, and is distinctive among the hybrid perpetuals, for its unusual velvety "poppy-red" coloring, overlaid black. Very handsome indeed, and fragrance to match. 1.75

Reve D'Or. Noisette. (1869.) Strong growing, climbing type, with superior foliage, extending to the base of the plant. Flowers are double, well formed, described by Mrs. Keays, as "*soft yellow, outside a pale pink, so the general color is of a buffy pink shade, with yellow shanks . . . This is an excellent rose, healthy, happy, free of bloom.*" We like everything about this famous old Noisette, except the tenacity with which it holds the faded blooms to the sometimes bitter end. 2.00



Spring is the natural frame of mind of heaven; autumn is one of its changing moods.

—EPIGRAMS OF CHANG CH'AO, 17TH CENTURY

Reveil Dijonnais. Climbing. H. Tea. (1931.) A healthy, glossy-foliaged climber of "refined" habits, whose distinctive beauty is deserving of far more usage. The writer drove a seven foot redwood stake in his home ground, planted a "too-small-for-the-customer" specimen, at the foot thereof, and has been rewarded with rapid growth and a Spring wealth of big, brilliant bicolor blooms in magenta and gold, still coming on as I write in late August. Take our word for it, this is GOOD!

Spring 1949. We wish to compliment Melvin E. Wyant, Mentor, Ohio, for the exceptionally beautiful plants of Reveil Dijonnais, seen blooming round and about his fine display garden this spring. 1.50

Roger Lambelin. H. Perpetual. (1890.) Given a spot it likes in the sun, Roger Lambelin is hale and hearty, and blooms generously all season. So far as we know, there is no other rose like it. Color is a rich deep red, shaded magenta, and each petal is edged with white, and fringed like a double petunia; exquisitely perfumed. A "must have" for the connoisseur.

Says Mrs. Claude Riggs, of Long Beach, Washington—"We like him because he's so-o-o-o different! A specimen rose." 1.75

Rosabel Walker. H. Tea. (1922.) *Garden Notes.* "Very bushy, spreading; large, light-green foliage. Double, 3½" blooms mostly in clusters of 3; very live, fiery deep rose-carmine, which turns slowly to dark magenta; rich fragrance. Looks tops!" Says Roy Shepherd—"I like it!" 1.50

R. Damascena. (Damask Rose.) This is a graceful, brilliant rose-carmine; semi-double, about 4", blooming profusely in clusters mostly 3; the lettuce-green almost rugose foliage adds much to the beauty of the well-shaped bushy plant. One of the finest roses in the garden. And still once again we quote from "Old Roses," Mrs. Keays—

"*Rosa Damascena, a rose suggesting poetry, travel and romance said to be a native of Syria, the rose brought to France by the Crusaders and thence to England, a rose claimed by a long and mythical past, takes its date in England from 1573, according to William Paul.*" It is said the Damask Rose grows on Omar Khayyam's grave at Nashipier. 2.00

R. Moyesi. Western China. We are revising last year's description as observation of this beautiful species in many gardens, does not justify the emphasis on "temperament". Blooms are 5 petalled, about 2" and perfectly formed; after the bees have worked on the stamens there is a wreath of ruffled old gold. We still credit Bobbink & Atkins for the best color description—"It is a vivid yet deep, warm, velvety reddish terracotta, a color one sometimes sees in old needle-work, and impossible to describe." This is easily the aristocrat of all our specie roses, and a plant which will grow bigger and more beautiful with every season. 1.75



"My husband is restraining me somewhat as he's a spot leary of "old roses" . . . says they make him feel old (at 36) just to hear me going on about them . . . fears they'll be gray or something. I try to point out that the young plants will surely be young even though descended from historic times, just as Junior is young compared with Adam."

—MRS. LEONARD J. BLACK, HAWTHORNE, CALIF.



THE OMEI ROSE, ITS TRANSLUCENT PRICKLES ARE AFIRE!

Rosa Omeiensis. (The Omei Rose.) May we say here that such terms as "unusual" become somewhat threadbare with too much usage. We would like to have reserved the word for the Omei Rose, to which unusual, and most of its synonyms—uncommon, curious, rare, odd, unique, extraordinary—certainly apply in big measure.

The flower is small, white, and unimportant, except it is one of the few roses with only four petals. But the tall canes bear thorns or prickles, winglike and translucent, while young, which glow like fire, especially when the sun is behind them. The effect is further beautified by the fern-like lush-green foliage. Our friend, Dr. Gage, once asked us to recommend some roses to plant across the end of his hybrid tea garden—think he had something pretty and genteel like Kathleen, in mind. I suggested the Omei Rose, to which he finally succumbed, in some doubt, I must admit, for the Doctor knows what he wants and does not persuade easily. This comment is intended for *all* gardeners, whose rose plots are well filled with their favorite hybrid teas, and whose taste for "just another new rose" is somewhat jaded. Why not try such varieties as *Omeiensis*, *Roxburghi*, *Soulieana*, and the like—maybe a new rose thrill is in store for you.

2.00



ROGER LAMBELIN—"SO DIFFERENT"

R. Soulieana. West China. If we were asked to decide our favorite mass-blooming single white rose, it would be hard to choose between the Musk varieties and Soulieana. Soulie is much more amenable in growth habit, however, hence ideal for pillars, or more limited spaces than the Musk requires. And besides—no further question about it—Mrs. Lester has again made her point—it *does* repeat its June bloom—and very pretty it is!

"It was the young leaf growth that first appealed to us, the soft grey-green unlike anything in the garden—then the ambitious way this little bush started for the sky. And now its clusters of purest white with golden stamens. Our dainty, refined Soulie is backed by the crimson giant, Thor . . . it may sound weird but they emphasize and complement each other."—James H. Hanscom, Elmhurst, Long Island, New York. Thanks, Mr. Hanscom. As I viewed your lovely Long Island country this spring, with its lush green fields, fine old houses and miles of rail fences, I thought many times how beautiful would be Soulieana and similar types of mass blooming roses, planted here and there to enliven the greenness and shout that "Spring is at hand!" 2.00

Rose A Parfum de l'Hay. H. Rugosa. (1903.) The Damask Rose and the famous General Jacqueminot are in its parentage, and account for the enormous blooms and wonderful fragrance. Foliage is rugose from the other side of the family, and plant is robust and free blooming. Says Bunyard in "Old Garden Roses"—"*I do not know any more richly scented rose than the Rugosa Parfum de l'Hay. A contralto scent in contrast with the Tea's soprano.*" The color is cherry-red.

At long last, we may have enough to go 'round. 1.50

Rose des Peintres. Centifolia. (Ancient.) Says friend Neville Miller, Palmerton, Pa.—"One of the healthiest and most vigorous varieties in our garden, with an unmodified and really intense old-rose odor. Flowers are large, many petalled and have a shining pink color which deepens toward the center." This is the rose model of the old Dutch painters, rated among our finest old-world varieties.

1.75

Rosette Delizy. Tea. (1922.) When the rose garden is "quiet," this lively and luxuriant tea rose will be in full-bloom—it literally never stops. Flowers are medium size, pert and well formed; basic color is cadmium-yellow, outer petals dark carmine, in very pleasing contrast. Enthusiastically recommended. 2.00

Sanguinaire. H. Rugosa (1933.) Stalwart, erect shrub to 6 feet, with glossy foliage. Produces recurrently, a profuse crop of brilliant, oxblood-red, semi-double blooms, with pronounced golden stamens . . . admirable for hedge and ornamental planting. 1.75

Sarah Van Fleet. H. Rugosa (1926.) "*Remarkable hybrid, flowering from June to October; erect bushy growth, glossy leaves. Long buds opening to semi-double flowers of clear light pink . . . very fragrant . . . of unusual quality,*" says T. Hilling Co., England. And we note it is the only rose in their fine catalog honored with the term "unusual quality." Margaret Snyder who presides at the late Dr. McFarland's beautiful garden, Breeze Hill, enthuses and says, "*the color is wild pink and intensely fragrant.*" This writer placed it with the six most charming old varieties seen on this spring's rose pilgrimage. Now, after all these distinguished endorsements, find we have only a handful, until 1951. What a commercial waste of enthusiasm here! 2.00

Scorcher. Climbing H. Tea. (1922.) Our Garden Notes, over the years on this beautiful Allister Clark climber, are an annual eulogy, for its rare and indescribable shade of red, plus the graceful form of the large semi-double flower, place it with our very best. Has all that anyone could ask in a climber—vigor, profuse and repeating bloom, and an out-shining beauty. 1.50

Seven Sisters. (R. Multiflora platyphylla.) Introduced 1817. Have had so many inquiries for this variety we decided to grow it in self-defense. Reaches climbing proportions in moderate climates . . . bears large trusses of 1½" double flowers, in shades ranging near white through the lilac, rose and dark carmine tones. From this unique habit, it gets its name, "seven colors" all blooming at the same time. And all for the price of one rose too! 1.75

Shot Silk. H. Tea. (1924.) Says the National Rose Society — "*Color cerise, shaded orange-salmon. Petals 27; moderately vigorous; very fragrant; foliage almost free of mildew. A beautiful bedding rose which should be planted closely.*" Mr. Lester always said of it, if he were limited to growing but one bush rose it would be Shot Silk, because its habits and performance are so excellent. And writing for the Pacific Rose Society he included it in his three favorite roses, out of the hundreds with which he had been so long familiar. This writer, yielding to the Lester enthusiasm some years ago, planted a Shot Silk Climber in his garden at Redlands, California, where the hot summers are not too kind to roses. Nothing in that garden of 225 varieties, exceeded Shot Silk in all those qualities which combine to make a rose good; certainly none were more exquisitely beautiful.

Both bush and climbers available.

1.50



Silver Moon. (1910.) So many have asked for this beautiful and unusual climber, we made it a happy addition to our list. "Big, saucer-shaped, moon-white flowers," show amber stamens, and come in great mass clusters, over a long spring season. Needs room and its handsome, glossy foliage is decorative in itself. 1.50

Soleil d'Or. Pernetiana. (1900.) To the famous English authority, William Paul, writing in 1901, we are indebted for the following—"A handsome and interesting hybrid. It is a cross between Persian Yellow and the H. P. Antoine Ducher. Flowers are deep golden yellow shaded nasturtium-red and rose; large, full and quite distinct—produced in summer and autumn. This variety will probably be the forerunner of a perpetual flowering group of a very hardy tribe." 1.35

Souv. de la Malmaison. Bourbon. (1843.) A famous and influential rose "with a haunting fragrance." Another of our special favorites and of Mrs. Keays also, for she writes of it with much charm and favor—"Souvenir de la Malmaison, 1843, a grand old rose and a tremendous favorite in the past. The bloom is often very large, always full, of refreshing fragrance. Its thick petals are quartered and neat, of a pale flesh-color with center rosy or rosy buff, the light playing over them with a translucence which is enchanting and typical, like the light of history over the mistress of Malmaison."

From Dr. Nicolas' The Rose Manual, 1934, we print this interesting comment—"I well remember in my father's garden was a large bed of his favorite rose, Souvenir de la Malmaison. Every second plant was pruned at medium height, the ones between, close to the ground. The long plants would bloom first, then the short ones, and the succession was maintained throughout the season. In the end, the short pruned plants were as high as the others." Maybe we have something here!

Bush and climbing.

2.00

Souvenir of Wootton. H. Tea. (1888.) Rated Hybrid Tea but with Hybrid Perpetual characteristics predominating; tall, lusty. recurrent bloom; somewhat similar to Mme. Victor Verdier in the way it grows strong canes topped with as many as nine enormous blooms; but the color is a deeper, richer carmine and the perfume is heavier. Rated special mention for outstanding performance in our spring inspection notes, each season.

Dr. R. C. Creelman, Bremerton, Washington, writes—"Souvenir of Wootton is in a bed with many other red roses and I believe it has the best color and form of all; the fragrance certainly beats any of them."

1.35

Studienrat Schlenz. Cli. H. Tea. (1926.) Let's agree, right off, the name is terrible, but watch out—as you get the hang of it, it may fascinate you, as it did this writer when he first saw it listed years ago, in Frank Lester's catalogue. Our parent plant grows tall, under an apple tree in the front garden, and all summer long, its large, satin, pale-pink blooms, with that crisp starched look, smile down at us through the apple foliage. Better find a spot for this one—and, if the name displease you, we will leave off the tag!

1.75

Sunlit. H. T. (1937.) A compact bush producing profusely, large, globular blooms of richest apricot, a rare shade in roses. Whenever you see the trademark of that great Australian hybridist, the late Allister Clark, you can be sure of a fine plant, and a bloom of top-ranking distinction.

1.50

Tausendschon. Rambler. (1906.) (Thousand Beauties.) Wonder if that "Stormy Petrel" of the Rose world, Roy Hennessey will shoot us if we crib verbatim, his excellent description of the beauteous Tausendschon—"Another rose for which time has brought no improvement in its type. It is entirely thornless, very hardy, and blooms considerably all summer long, with trusses of cupped, two inch blooms from pink to white, on the plant at the same time. To coin a name for it I would call it 'Pastel Pillar,' as, by using it for a pillar it is most effective. It is also hardy below zero." (Thanks, Roy, don't shoot!) 1.50

Triomphe de l'Exposition. H. P. (1855.) A big, lusty hybrid perpetual, with that clean, parsley-green foliage. The great double blooms are well rounded, cherry-red, very free flowering. Roy Shepherd deposes and says, "*This is one of my favorites.*" Quite a title to live up to, we say. 1.75

Ulrich Brunner. H. Perpetual. (1882.) Stout fellow, is Ulrich and shrugs his big shoulders at pests and diseases. Somewhere back in his uncertain ancestry hovers the shadow of Paul Neyron, obviously a gay dog in his heyday. Blooms are very large, characteristically cupped, with those fiery deep carmine tones peculiar to the type. The fragrance might awaken a flutter even in Elizabeth Arden and "Charles of the Ritz." 1.50

Variegata di Bologna. Centifolia. (1909.) *Garden Notes* — "Let all the novelty enthusiasts gather 'round this one! Thought we had seen everything from Fiesta to the Green Rose, but Bologna is different! Fat buds come in clusters of 3-5, and open very full—white striped magenta—some petals nearly all dark. Can guarantee this will stop in their tracks, all visiting rosarians, some of whom will love it, others detest it. As for this writer, he is going to have one in his personal garden, come what may! Fragrance—RAVISHING!" 2.00

Veilchenblau. Rambler. (1909.) This is a many-caned, strong growing climber, with clean, glossy, but not evergreen foliage. Produces great masses of spring bloom, in clusters of 1¼ inch semi-double cupped flowers starting brilliant crimson, then passing quickly to magenta and darker shades. This writer's Pillar of Veilchenblau in Redlands some years ago was a "picture in violet tones" of superb beauty.

Garden Notes. "The large plant which is competing for space with a buddleia is now, June 15th, in profuse bloom, with many large bud clusters in various stages, to open for a long time yet. To call this a "blue rose" is a misnomer, as the whole effect is warm-toned and pleasing. Blooms start rosey-pink, and pass slowly to magenta and pale violet, reaching slate blue only in the final stages. Blue rose antagonists should bury the hatchet." 1.50

York & Lancaster. R. damascena versicolor. (1551.) Abundant spring bloom on a strong, bushy plant. "The rose nor red nor white but stolen of both," says Shakespeare. In fact we have so many "quotes" for this variety, we know not where to begin or leave off—for no rose has had so much mention, and none a more interesting history. To Dean Hole, we are indebted for this good bit—

"York and Lancaster, thus called because it bears in impartial stripes, the colours, red and white, of those royal rivals who fought the Wars of the Roses, recalling Shakespeare's lines—

And here I prophesy. This brawl today,
Grown to this faction, in the Temple Garden,
Shall send between the Red Rose and the White,
A thousand souls to death and deadly night."

1.50



THE MOSS ROSE

The Moss Roses

"It seems to me there is nothing lovelier in the whole flower kingdom than a spray of Moss Rose Buds," Louise Beebe Wilder, 1916.

Nothing we might say today about these delightful Moss Roses could equal the rich words of the old writers. We will let them picture for you this sweetheart rose of the last century.

You who received recent catalogues, will forgive us if we repeat, once again, the Calvados Legend of the Birth of the Moss Rose too good to be omitted—

" . . . and the Angel, with dew-laden wings, being weary, begged of the Rose a night's shelter. Awakening refreshed, she asked how such hospitality might be repaid. 'Make me even more beautiful,' replied the Queen of Flowers. 'But what grace can I add to the most beautiful of all flowers,' said the Angel; and then, glancing at her mossy bed, she gathered some and placed it on the Rose's young buds. Thus was born the Moss Rose."

We cannot resist including here, (remote to rose cataloging as it may be), the incident described by the famous Dean Hole, in his "Book about Roses," first published in England 1869, an extract from Chapter X, as follows,—

" . . . It is, nevertheless, as true an incident in my history as it may be a strange statement in the reader's ears, that, once upon a time, hard on fifty summers since, I was driven out of London by a Rose! And thus it came to pass: Early in June, that period of the year which tries, I think, more than any other, the patience of the Rosarian, waiting in his garden, and vexing his fond heart with idle fears, I was glad to have a valid excuse for spending a few days in town. To town I went, transacted my business, saw the pictures, heard an opera, wept my annual tear at a tragedy, visited the Nurseries, rode in the Park, met old friends, and was beginning to think that life in the country was not so very much 'more sweet than that of painted pomp,' when, engaged to a dinner-party, and to enliven my scenery, I bought a Rose. Only a common Rose, one from a hundred which a ragged girl was hawking in the streets—a Moss Rose-bud! But as I carried it in my coat, and gazed on it, and specially when, waking next morning, I saw it in my water-jug—saw it as I lay in my dingy bedroom, and heard the distant roar of Piccadilly instead of the thrush's song—saw it, and thought of my own Roses—it seemed as though they had sent to me a messenger, whom they knew I loved, to bid me 'come home.' . . . And I arose, reflecting; and though I had taken my lodgings and arranged my plans for three more days in London, I went home that morning with the Rosebud in my coat, and wandering in my garden at eventide, armed with a cigar in case I met an aphid, I exulted in my liberation from smuts and smells, and in all the restful peace, and the fragrant beauty, which glowed around me."



To save repetition, ALL Moss Roses, offered herein, are unequalled in any class, for their robust constitution and hardiness in severe temperatures. All are distinctively sweet-smelling. There is some variation in their habits, but generally, they tend to grow many canes from the base, which, if uncontrolled, reach almost climbing proportions. They will fill as much or little space as their owner desires, for a year's growth of any rose may be removed by a few snips of the pruning shears. We have seen no conditions under which Moss roses will not bloom, and any retailer who tells you otherwise, is either ignorant, does not have any, or "lies in his teeth," if you will pardon us a touch of vehemence. Moss roses, however, thrive on neglect (but not abuse), and too much food and water forces them into growth instead of bloom. Don't coddle them. By cutting back the vigorous growing canes, immediately following the bloom period in spring, the Moss is encouraged to "bush out" and produce much more flower-bearing wood for the next season, also makes a more symmetrical plant withal.

Another successful method of forcing heavy bloom is to "peg down" the long canes to the ground, in near horizontal position . . . a piece of 8-gauge wire, bent to a hooked end, length as needed, does the trick nicely. They will then break into future flower growth all along the new canes. Yes, it takes more ground space, and 4 feet apart is close enough planting when you are "pegging." Mighty good idea . . . try it!

So—just set them in good but untreated soil, give them a loving pat, and pass them by when feeding your hybrid teas, spraying, dusting, and fussing, for secretly they are laughing at their delicate, blue-blooded cousins who require so much more attention.

Varieties

Blanche Moreau. White Moss. (1880.) The best known of all the White Mosses; blooms in clusters on long stems; well mossed buds open to double, sweet-smelling flowers of purest white. 1.50

Comtesse de Murinais. (1843.) We hasten to discard our dull description for the fresh words of Neville Miller, Pennsylvania—"Upright bush, well clothed in green leaves and crowned by a succession of lovely roses, which open pale pink then change to a crystalline shining white, like the icing on a cake. The flowers have perfect form and a fine Moss-rose odor." 1.75

Crested Moss. (1827.) Discovered on the wall of a convent near Fribourg and sent out by Vibert in 1827. Only Mrs. Keays can do justice, to this, our favorite of all the pink Mosses, "*The Crested Moss has a grace and charm no other rose has. Decorative crests are arranged on the bud that they form a three-cornered decoration and fluff out at the top like a little bunch of plums. The breaking bud is exquisite. The whole picture is an instance of rose magic.*"

"A bouquet of 15 blooms from the Crested Moss shipped me February 26th was awarded the second prize for double pink roses at the 21st annual Flower Show sponsored by the Stockton Garden Club in competition with first prize winner Charlotte Armstrong . . . pretty good for a little old Moss rose planted less than 3 months ago," writes Mrs. R. G. Robinson, Stockton, California.

Now won't the hybrid teas feel foolish if they start losing show ribbons to grandmother's roses!

1.75

Duchesse d'Istrie. Moss. (1855.) Blooms in large clusters of a dozen or more buds, opening to 2½ inch double flowers of pale pink, delicately touched lilac, and exquisitely scented. For the connoisseur.

Summer 1948, *Garden Notes*—"Charming even deep-pink, fading pleasingly to Persian rose; blooms in well formed clusters of 6-10, and a fragrance to awaken old memories!"

Garden Notes—"Charming even deep-pink, fading pleasingly to Persian rose; blooms in well formed clusters of 6-10, and a fragrance to awaken old memories!"

1.75

Felicite Bohain. Moss (old) *Garden Notes* 1948. Shapely, clean dark-green plant with narrow pointed foliage. Buds mostly in singles or doubles . . . well mossed . . . soft, pearly mauve-pink, about 2½" . . . delicate fragrance, good! Last year we quoted authority, Roy Shepherd—"deep pink, exceptionally large" in preference to our own observation of our parent plant, but a good customer took us to task with these words . . . "It's good . . . one of the prettiest in my garden, but it is the palest pink and not 'exceptionally large'." Mrs. Lester adds an enthusiastic ditto. 1.75

Gloire Des Mousseaux. Moss. (1852.) This is probably the favorite Moss rose of the experts, with a more dramatic, bold and handsome quality than the others. "...Another excellent survivor is Gloire des Mousseaux, a French rose of 1852. The fragrant bloom is very large, full and proud in bearing; free in coming, strong in staying. The color is flesh pink with a deeper pink center. The form is globular like R. Centifolia and the foliage is large, strong, and plentiful. Clustering blooms, reflexing sepals, the mossy, bristly, flowering branch tell us that here is a hybrid, Centifolia, Damascena and who knows what else." —MRS. KEAYS.

Mrs. Leonard J. Black, Hawthorne, Cal., writes something pointed at the ladies—"It is calming, enchanting and inspiring to behold a gentle and lovely lady of rosedom (or 'elsedom') who achieves her greatest beauty at full maturity and then ages so leisurely and so graciously." Amen! says Mrs. Lester, hopefully.

1.75

Goethe. (1911.) Dr. Marshall of Watsonville, viewing Goethe for the first time, exclaimed—"This is the most attractive Moss rose in your garden!" While we cannot go along with him this far, Goethe certainly has an individuality and charm which distinguishes it from all the others. The almost single bloom is about 1½", color magenta, with white center. Large clusters of 6-7 long pointed buds are so covered with moss they seem to be wearing fur coats. Foliage dark emerald-green—the new stems are maroon with brighter prickles. Certainly different and delightful!

1.75

Have been looking at the roses now that the snow is gone. After 16 below zero two or three times this winter only the Old-timers are alive above the snow line. The Moss roses, Centifolias, Briers, Hybrid Rugosas and Gallicas show absolutely no freeze-back.

—NEVILLE MILLER, PENN.



Golden Moss. (1932.) This rose has an interesting parentage, Frau Karl Druschki x Souv. de Claudius Pernet x Blanche Moreau. With so much royal sap in its stems, it could not produce other than blooms of great distinction. Flowers in clusters of 3 to 5, 37 petals, tawny yellow. Buds are globular and well mossed. 1.75

Henri Martin. (1863.) Blooms profusely in clusters 3-8, about 2½"; especially liked by us for the deep fiery crimson tones which are not equalled by any other red moss. Occasionally criticized by the perfectionists for not being heavily mossed, but with us, "fuzzy" as most and a wonderful plant! 1.75

Jeanne de Montfort. Moss (1851.) A vigorous, tall-growing and well furnished bush with unusually handsome emerald-green foliage. Blooms in large clusters, the heavily mossed buds, starting dark carmine and opening to soft pink, 2½" double blooms, with that unforgettable fragrance. This has proved a proud addition to our Moss collection. 1.75

La Neige. Moss (1905.) A sport of the favorite old Blanche Moreau. Roy Shepherd rates it "about the best of the white Mosses." We admire particularly, the brilliant foliage, with the fine crimson prickles along the stems, which turns a distinct purple tinge in late summer. Very elegant and unique is La Neige. 1.75

Laneii. (1846.) We quote famous English authority, William Paul, writing in 1901—"Flowers rosy crimson, occasionally tinged with purple, large and full. Form globular, buds broad, bold and well mossed. Foliage very large and robust growth. Raised by M. Laffay at Bellevue." 1.75

Little Gem. (1880.) "A miniature Moss-rose, and a 'gem of purest ray serene;' a ruby set in emeralds, having crimson flowers surrounded by moss, gleams brightly amid the crown jewels of Her Majesty, the Queen of Flowers." Thanks again, Dean Hole—your rose descriptions are unsurpassed. 1.75

Mme. Louis Leveque. (1898.) We have become a bit canny in the use of the expression "our favorite rose," for each season brings new qualities good and not so good, in all varieties—the Queen of Flowers is intensely feminine. But Madame has persistent virtues—she glows with health, gives generously of her soft pink flowers in spring and autumn also—And her fragrance is more Chanel than Chanel! 1.75



*The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his heaven
All's right with the world.*

—PIPPA PASSES

Mousseaux Ancien. (Ancient.) *Garden Notes*—"Better formed than the average Moss Rose, with unusual fern-green foliage. I like it!" And Roy Shepherd says—"Here's a real Moss! Deep pink in the center, with lighter edges—I rate very good!" With the approval of two such authorities, (pardon our ego) it should be worthy of your special note. 1.75

Pink Moss. (ancient) The charming mother of all the Mosses, brought to England from Holland about 1596. Easily the most popular Moss Rose, and we have never yet grown enough of them. It blooms generously over a very long early season, repeating more moderately through summer and fall. 1.50

Red Moss. (Ancient.) Not "red" as we understand the meaning of the word, but deep live carmine. With us, the most prolific of any, and recommended to those who are at all dubious about success with Moss Roses. 1.50

Salet. (1854.) Another good rosy-pink, heavily mossed—opening large and wide. Appears even more vigorous than the others—very bushy, profuse spring bloom, repeating more moderately in fall. Roy Shepherd says—"Among the most valuable of the pink mosses." 1.75

Yellow Moss. (1932.) Definitely yellow and a necessary addition to any Moss rose collection. Has all the good habits, vigour and fine Moss fragrance of its companions.

We hasten to change last year's term "ancient" to proper date of introduction. One of our good correspondents, calling attention to the error, inquired acidly—"If we consider 1932 ancient, how old would we consider *him!*" 1.50



For the Moss Rose Novice. We offer one each, Blanche Moreau (white), Old Red, Old Pink and Old Yellow Mosses, delivered you, all charges and taxes included, total four plants. *Moss offer No. 1.* 5.00

For the Connoisseur. We offer one each Comtesse de Murinais, Crested Moss, Duchesse d'Istrie, Gloire des Mousseaux, Mme. Louis Leveque, and Golden Moss, delivered, all charges and taxes included, 6 plants. *Moss offer No. 2* 9.00



"PINKIE"

The Gay Polyantha

*"A miniature of loveliness,
All grace, summed up, and closed in little"*

We are again indebted to Rose G. Kingsley, writing in England, 1908,—

"The Dwarf Polyantha Roses are derived from the summer-flowering, climbing Multiflora, and in them we get a first cousin of a rose like Crimson Rambler, for instance, so dwarf as to make a charming two feet high edging to an ordinary rose-bed, and so thoroughly perpetual, that from May to December it is thickly covered with its hundreds of miniature flowers in clusters. How these tiny roses, which remind one of the "Fairy Rose" of long-ago nursery days, came into being, is not exactly known. But they are evidently the result of crossings with the Tea Rose strain. Guillot developed the first, Ma Paquerette, pure white, flowering in large bunches, in 1875. In 1879, Rambaux followed with the charming Anna Maria de Montravel, one of the best known of its class. The next year, Ducher brought out the lovely Cecile Brunner, blush, shaded pink, and the race was fully recognized. Since then nearly every year has seen fresh varieties; and the charming little plants are growing in favour. These roses may be roughly divided into two classes; one showing the Polyantha blood very strongly; the other the Tea blood."

The American rose gardeners' enthusiasm for these gay and sparkling cluster-flowering roses bids fair to equal their popularity abroad. We believe they have no rivals, in *any* garden flowers, for brilliancy and vivacity; their *true* ever-blooming habit is an all season delight.

Every hue known to rosedom is found in them. There are low-growing and spreading types . . . medium, tall growing . . . small or large-flowered . . . a color and style to blend and fit any purpose, whether as borders . . . in groups for mass display, or planted through the rose-beds to hide the "legginess" of the tall-growing sorts.

In addition to the small-flowered, low spreading types, we have the important FLORIBUNDAS, in which the tea strain predominates,—taller and larger flowered than the dwarf polyanthas, but still in profuse clusters and always in bloom.

The list which follows is our carefully tested judgment of the best—both old and new. Each is a distinct rose personality. You will not find any "duds."

Anneke Koster. A low-growing variety with clean, pointed foliage and excellent habits. Produces clusters of semi-double, 1½" flowers, of lively deep carmine, lighter outside of petals—ranuncula shaped similar to Marytje Cazant. Roy Shepherd, Medina, Ohio says—"*This Dutch rose is an ideal poly in deep red.*"

1.15

Cameo. Low growing, 15 to 18 inches. Semi-double, small, cupped flowers in clusters, first salmon-pink, then turning to shell-pink, shaded gold. Profuse, all season bloom. Rated second by the National Rose Society, England, out of a large field of Polyanthas.

1.15

Cecile Brunner. (Known also as Mignon and the Sweetheart Rose.) If rose gardeners everywhere were asked to name their ten favorite roses, regardless of class or size, we believe Cecile Brunner would be included more than any other—it is so universally loved. Its small exquisite pink buds, are as perfectly formed as the finest hybrid tea. We have admired it in low growing borders, in groups among the other roses, and in the great masses of pink bloom given so bountifully and repeatedly by the climbing form. For greatest rose enjoyment, we consider Cecile Brunner among the six best roses in anybody's catalogue.

1.15

Chatillon Rose. Low growing, spreading type, producing in great profusion, the longest lasting pink cluster bloom, of any we have noted. Will mildew a little if subjected to long periods of cold, damp weather, but its fine qualities are well worth a little sulphur dusting when needed.

"I have found Chatillon to be the best performer of any of my many varieties and types—the border is a lovely spot all season. My plants stood 6 below this winter and did not freeze back." Mrs. Wm. T. McKinney, Bicknell, Indiana.

1.15

Chatillon White. Identical with the pink Chatillon described above, except its pinkish buds open to a good clean white, turning very slowly to ivory as the clusters age. This writer prefers the White to the Pink, but both are tops.

1.15





China Doll. *Patent 678.* W. E. Lammerts is the author of this one, in 1945. We cannot improve on the originator's description which we take the liberty of quoting—"Imagine a bushy, rounded, 18 inch rose plant, carrying 240 perfect pink roses at one time, each flower 1 to 2 inches across . . . the great rounded flower clusters so cover the plant, you cannot even see the leaves . . . color is a bright, cheerful shade of China Rose; petals drop cleanly before they become unsightly . . . China Doll makes a wonderful low border." And from a leading Oregon amateur—"One of the prettiest dwarf pink bedders to date." 1.50

Goldilocks. *Patent 672.* Bushy, spreading plant, with bright glossy foliage; blooms in panicles of five to ten; crisp, well-curved buds open to 2½ inch flowers of bright, butter-cup yellow, fading more gracefully than most yellows in this class. We are inclined to agree with Fred Edmunds, Oregon—"Best bedder of its color to date"; and Dr. Horsley, Wyoming, who dittos this rating. 1.50

Ideal. Low growing, to about 18 inches—spreading. Dark, velvety crimson, which holds its color well, and is an unusual shade in the low-growing Polyanthas. Best in its color range. 1.15

La Marne. Medium grower and one of the most prolific bloomers. Its cluster blooms are blush white, edged pink. Thriving all over the Lester gardens, even without summer irrigation. A prime favorite. 1.15

Margo Koster. Very low growing; blooms in large panicles of semi-double, ranuncula shaped flowers, with orange-red and salmon tones predominating; no mildew. The "glamour girl" and leading protege of Mrs. Judith Packard, Los Angeles, who sums up her enthusiasm in these words—"Everblooming, evergreen, healthy and happy."

By some unhappy chance, Margo Koster was planted in our display garden among some soft pink varieties and next to the royal purple beauty, Mrs. Anthony Waterer. It is frequently said there are no conflicting colors among roses but Margo disproves this statement. Certainly very pretty in itself, but must be confined to companionship with the reds, yellows and whites—or else! 1.15

Marytje Cazant. (Mary Casant.) A dwarf polyantha, producing big clusters of waxy, unfading, coral-pink blooms—the happiest ever. Mrs. Packard can have her "glamour girl." We'll take Mary. 1.15

Ming Toy. *Patented.* Rather tall-growing; miniature old-type, deep-rose blooms, en masse. We quote from the experts—"The dainty petals are so precisely placed, the brilliant rose colored flowers compare with a miniature Camellia." And again—"Plants are exceptionally rugged, constantly in bloom; the cut sprays make beautiful long-lasting flower arrangements." ARS rating 74% 1.25

Mrs. R. M. Finch. Grows to 3 feet, when uncontrolled, and equally broad. Flowers in impressive clusters, of 2 inch double blooms, rosy-pink—its habit of changing first to blush then white, creating a varied and most pleasing color effect. Viewing Mrs. Finch, in a big display of polyanthas, this writer recorded, "VERY pretty pink, spreading, great clusters; healthy; outstanding!"

"'Pretty' is such an insipid word for such a lovely, lively pink rose which has been in constant bloom in my dooryard garden," says Mrs. Roy F. Bishop, El Monte, California. Wanted, better and fresher adjectives for "pretty" roses. 1.15

Mrs. Joseph Hiess. Says Roy Shepherd, Ohio—"Just a pink poly which is exceptionally free-blooming; blossoms are well formed and fragrant; others like it but I do not wish to be conceited; it's my rose, you know." Well, Mr. Shepherd, you are much too modest; it is just about the prettiest clear pink poly in our display gardens. Moderate grower, bushy, medium height; dark emerald-green, pointed foliage. Blooms in clusters, 3 to as many as 16; the tight spiral buds open to 2" double flowers which hold exceptionally well in hot sun, and make a charming bouquet. Go to the head of the class, Mr. Shepherd. 1.35

Orange Triumph. Low growing to two feet, unusually healthy foliage. Many of you will tire of reading the much-mentioned catalogue comment that "orange" is not the word for it (except in Germany where it originated) and some fine day, perhaps somebody will suggest, for American commerce, it be called Scarlet Triumph, Coral Triumph, or anything but orange. For this is a remarkably fine Polyantha and should not be handicapped by a deceptive title. If you have never grown any polys, and are gingerly approaching the possibility of doing so, begin with Orange Triumph, and you will be off to a mighty fine start. 1.15

Perle d'Or. (Yellow Cecile Brunner.) The writer is forced to withdraw his "poached pigeon's egg" slur, in former description, for the "golden Cecile" surely improves on acquaintance. This is a low growing, bushy, very vigorous and profuse polyantha; the tight, perfectly formed little buds are deep golden apricot, shading lighter to the outside. 1.15

Pinkie. Pat. 712 All-America winner in 1947. Came through the A.R.S. critics last season, with an 84% National rating! Maybe, in all honesty, a little over-rated . . . no doubt "has its moods of happiness and sorrow" . . . but, by and large, still remains with us among the top, mass-blooming pink polyanthas . . . needs close planting for maximum effect . . . it's a companionable rose. 1.50

Pink Lafayette. A very lively, bushy, nicely foliated poly, producing heavily and constantly, in large clusters of clear rose-pink semi-double blooms. Much as we are intrigued by the crop of new and different "baby roses," this fine old Polyantha is mighty hard to beat. Compact medium growth. 1.15

Pinocchio. Patent 484. A hybrid tea rose in miniature. In father's lapel, its salmon-gold tones, add just the needed sparkle to that rather dull tie he's wearing. Grows to about 2 feet, produces bountifully and constantly, in great clusters; rates among the top performers of its class.

Summer 1949. Gaining in popularity with every season. This perfectly formed, double rose, not only furnishes gay and constant color in the garden but is tops for cutting! 1.25

Poulsen's Yellow. This is a medium growing polyantha with unusually glossy, rather pointed foliage, immune to mildew, and provides a handsome background for the semi-double bright yellow cluster blooms. Fills the need for a good yellow, although, like most yellow roses, large or small, it will not hold its color when the sun is too ardent. 1.15

Springtime. Pat. 268 Low to 1½ feet, bushy. Produces in clusters, semi-double, cupped flowers, described "wild-rose-pink, with white centers." At its best in the warmer districts.

Summer, 1949. Whoever named this poly deserves special commendation, for the whole effect of the emerald-green foliage and the graceful rose-pink blooms with sparkling white centers, seems to personify the spring spirit. It has a distinctive beauty which singles it out from all other pink polyanthas. 1.25

The Fairy. Of very low, vigorous spreading growth. Turns up its nose at mildew and refuses to be bothered with any pests or diseases. Double, rosette type flowers, are of a most charming clear, pale pink, borne constantly in attractive clusters. We will match this delightful Polyantha against the field, and take all bets. The Fairy, in our opinion, is the best low-growing Polyantha, the hybridizer has yet created. Fully equal to Orange Triumph in vigor and blooming quality, we like better the delicate color so nicely suggested by its Fairy title. *Try it and be glad!* 1.15



Floribundas

Larger-flowered, everblooming

Betty Prior. *Patent 340.* Medium to tall-growing; flowers in large clusters; definite two-tone—light pink inside petals, carmine outside; noted for its profuse and constant all-season bloom; exceptionally pretty.

Gordon M. Beals, Omaha, writes—“*In case it happens elsewhere, why don't catalogues describe Betty as twice as tall as Donald? My 6 plants were right up to my eyes this fall—nearly six feet—my Donalds, even with my belt buckle. Do they act that way in all soils and climates?*” Will sympathetic rosarians help Mr. Beals, please, also will some anatomical mathematician figure just how tall HE is. 1.25

Charmaine. As delightful as its charming name . . . the pearly pink, cupped, double blooms remind us of the old tea, Duchesse de Brabant, “delicate and luminous as a sea-shell.” Here we have the old-rose quality on a well branched, profuse blooming modern plant. 1.25

Donald Prior. *Patent 377.* Another year's acquaintance with this beautiful cherry-red floribunda, growing with and without irrigation all over the Lester display gardens, adds a lot to our admiration and respect. With us its growth is medium, 2-3 feet; its bloom constant, and its rich dark-red semi-double blooms an unfailing delight. 1.25

Doris Ryker. Three years ago, before I met Roy Shepherd and his large and beautiful garden of many hundred varieties in Medina, Ohio, we asked him to send us some budwood of his favorite 25 roses. Now, I know the problem we posed for him . . . Reminds me of the time I asked Roy Hennessey to name his favorite dozen . . . to which he replied rather acidly—“*How could Solomon with his 1000 wives and concubines (whew!) say which was the most beautiful.*” Anyway, Roy Shepherd included the lovely pale salmon-pink Doris Ryker, which, thanks to him, we can now share with you. 1.25

Else Poulsen. Grows three to four feet, robust and erect. Heavy and constant bloomer. Flowers are in clusters of one dozen or more, on long stems—bright rose-pink, with eleven petals. Says the National Rose Society, “a very beautiful bedding variety.”

Garden Notes — Else Poulsen probably won more spring-visitor admiration, in the “hill display garden” than any other variety. The big, buxom, 5 foot plants were a mass of brilliant bloom, continuing now through the summer. We note that 162 reports from 39 states, give her a national A.R.S. rating of 87%! Some gal, is Else. 1.25

Fashion. P. A. F. If you are not already in a dither about the latest All-America winner you should be, as this new Floribunda is bedecked with the 1949 Bagatelle Medal and the gold award of the English National Rose Society . . . so many international rose judges can't be wrong. To us, its unique color is its best bid for fame; the pointed buds are oriental red, opening slowly to "a luminous coral-pink, overlaid gold,"—a brand new shade to rosedom, which refuses to be captured by words. Yes, you'd better order some—it's the "fashion," you know. 2.00

Floradora. All-America winner in 1945 and the first time a hybrid polyantha has been so honored. Tall-growing, well branched, healthy and profuse. Its color is unique. As Armstrongs say—"Call it cinnabar-red, orange-scarlet, scarlet-vermilion, whichever sounds the most dazzling to you." Said color will bear watching however, as it does not blend nicely with the more delicate rose shades. Says rose-authority McDonough, San Francisco—"Rates a place in any garden for novel coloring; has no fault that I can discern," and to Mrs. Packard, Los Angeles, we are again indebted for some characteristic wording—"What an eye-putter-outer they make in a corsage." 1.15

Karen Poulsen. Probably the finest creation of the Poulsen family, Denmark, the world's leading experts in this rose class. Grows to 3 feet, blooms in large panicles of intense scarlet, single flowers; holds its color well in sun or wet. Awarded England's National Rose Society first position, and was runner-up for the French Bagatelle Gold Medal in 1946. This is a leading favorite in our gardens. 1.35

Kirsten Poulsen. If permitted, will grow to big proportions, but easily adaptable; excellent foliage. Blooms continuously in great sprays of single, bright scarlet flowers, and presents a "big show" when massed. Mrs. Lester says, "This is my favorite red, single rose." 1.25

Pink Bountiful. *Patent 601.* Another soft pink floribunda has stood the test of a few years circulation, emerging with a 75% ARS rating. Full-petalled, similar to Rosenelfe and the ARS reports reflect their competition. Likewise its H. Tea form makes it equally effective whether in beds, borders or among your bush plantings. Tends to be tall, to 3-4 feet. "Why don't you have it," has been a much used phrase in customer correspondence. "Here it is"—now say we.

Summer, 1949. We add the experience of another season to our enthusiastic recommendation of Pink Bountiful . . . also Pink Rosette, which follows here. Excellent! 1.25

Pink Rosette. *P.A.F.* Among the latest of the cluster blooming floribundas of H. Tea form, to make its bow and bid for your approval. Considerable mystery must be attached to its parentage—"unnamed seedling x unnamed seedling," but originator Krebs, puts good "blood" in his many fine roses. Catalogue experts, Wayside Gardens, say of it—"Pink Rosette definitely links together the glamour and beauty of the present with the style and charm of the past . . . pure peach-pink . . . deep green foliage . . . extra strong growth . . . lasts for days . . . one crop followed by another . . . what more could be asked!" Indeed! What more! Be reasonable! And besides—it's REALLY good! 1.25

Red Ripples. *Patented.* Upright, healthy grower to four feet. We rate it the best of all the newcomers in the red or crimson color range, both as to plant and blooming habit, and the rich, glowing beauty of its clear red flowers. Can stand up in hot sun, and like it!

Summer, 1949. Garden Notes—"Tall, handsome as ever. On one cane, counted 50 buds. Much admired by our garden visitors." 1.25

Rosenelfe. (Sometimes listed Rose-Elfe.) A hybrid polyantha with perfect hybrid tea form, about 2½ inches across; silvery rose-pink, described La France pink, holding its color extremely well in all weather. Excellent plant and a constant bloomer. Rosenelfe occupies a unique position, mid-way in size between the charming little Cecile Brunner and the best hybrid teas, retaining the fine bud form and quality of both. Has been a prime favorite of this writer since its introduction, 1939.

Summer, 1949. Our admiration for Rosenelfe grows with the years; nothing in the garden can excell it for lasting qualities and it is "good to the last drop." 1.15

Snowbank. *Patent 279.* This writer's admiration for Snowbank began some years ago in the display garden at Paul Howard's fine nursery, Sawtelle. Alas, this interesting test plot is not always kept to the perfection it deserves, but Snowbank from early spring to fall managed to put on a fine show, when others of its type needed "face lifting" and a good "freshening up." Produces in big masses of 2" semi-double blooms, just touched with delicate shell-pink; very bushy, spreading, medium height. Mighty good! 1.25

White Wings. *P.A.F.* A Krebs creation. First enthusiastically admired in the garden of rose-hybridists, Carl and Rowena Duehrsen, Montebello, to which we are frequent visitors. When they say a rose is good, its GOOD! Hailed as the white counterpart of the lovely and favorite pink Dainty Bess, but to us, appears a more profuse and constant bloomer. If you are not delighted with this one, we hand you back—to the "Indians." 1.25

World's Fair. (Minna Kordes.) *Patent 362.* Immediately we page Dr. Gage! Says he, breaking a long, reflective silence, as he surveys his highly polished and meticulously selected 170 rose varieties—"Mister, if I had to get along without all these roses, save one, do yuh know the one I'd keep? (discreet silence by "mister") —*World's Fair!*—— !" And I look over at those lush plants, with their clusters of velvety, rich, dark-crimson blooms—and . . . don't argue with him—it's no use anyway. SO—we appoint Dr. Gage our ambassador extraordinaire for World's Fair. 1.25

NOTE—*While the cost of growing polyanthas and floribundas is as great as any other rose variety, we are always willing to share the economies of handling large orders, and invite price correspondence with any who contemplate extensive planting.*



" . . . with sweet Musk roses and with Eglantine."



PEACE—THE "MASTER ROSE"

The Newer Roses

"It is our endeavour to give a thorough trial to every new Rose of promise, and to place before the Rose enthusiast a tested selection of those which appear to us to be an improvement on existing sorts—thereby, we trust, saving him time, space and money which can so easily be spent on worthless varieties."

—CATALOGUE R. HARKNESS & CO., HERTFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND

Sometimes we hear it said—"Why pay these patent prices for the new hybrid teas—there are just as good roses in the \$1.25 class." Superior beauty and performance are the supreme test, and no rose *has* to be a patented variety to be offered by us.

There are strong factors, however, working successfully to improve the hybrid tea strain. Rose-lore grows apace. The best hybridists of all-time, are hard at work, breeding improved vigor, a more profuse and ever-flowering habit, greater hardiness, more lasting blooms, and new color tones, not found in the older hybrid tea varieties.

Few patented roses are successful commercially, unless they are "All-America" winners. To capture this national award, a new variety is tested by experts in 17 gardens widely scattered the country over; they must show winning qualities in all climates and conditions. When the new rose bears the "All America" stamp, you can depend upon it—it's not only *good* but will be good for *you*.

Once again we commend the AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY, and the value of its annual "Proof of the Pudding" reports, in which many of our leading amateurs judge the latest creations; they provide a non-commercial and unbiased guide to the best new roses. Their national ratings and comments (ARS) are quoted frequently herein. If you are not an ARS member, you are missing a valuable and entertaining association with 10,000 other rose enthusiasts.

The rose varieties which follow have few faults and are selected carefully for their superior beauty and many virtues. We are not hybridists and have nothing of our own creation to endorse. Our aim is to offer you through these annual pages, the pick of the modern roses, wherever originated, without prejudice, *grown the California way*. We will try to describe them fairly. "True some do better in cooler climates; some like best the inland sun; but the acid test of varied conditions and locations has been applied to them, and these we think the most worthy."



Applause. Pat. 829. Winner of the Bagatelle Gold Medal, 1948, the highest award in Rosedom. Grows above medium height, vigorous and well-furnished . . . its large, leathery leaves laugh at mildew. Flower is large, many petalled, powerfully fragrant . . . color starts dazzling light red of a unique shade, and fades pleasantly in later stages. Here is a rose everybody likes . . . rated 92% by the A.R.S. and we have yet to hear an unfavorable comment. This chap, Herb Swim really knows his way around roses. Once again, hearty congratulations! 2.00

Best Regards. Patent 652. A large, handsome rose of exhibition form, on long stems. Color cardinal-red, further enlivened by a coppery-orange at base of petals inside; healthy, tall-growing and very profuse. First admired by this writer in a stunning bouquet brought to the Pacific Rose Society meeting by Bill Clark, that rose-canny and genial Scot who presides at Germaines. 1.50

Blaze. Patent 10. From its parents, Blaze gets the vivid color and form of the popular Paul's Scarlet, and has added the recurrent blooming habit of Gruss an Teplitz. We have yet to see any climber which fully justifies the term "ever-blooming," but Blaze is a dependable repeater, especially in fall. Vigorous and hardy, with scarlet blooms, galore. 1.50



"I am strongly of opinion that the possession of a quantity of plants, however good the plants may be and however ample the number, does not make a garden; it only makes a collection."

—GERTRUDE JEKYLL, LONDON, ENGLAND

Butterscotch. *Patent 613.* "Zinc-orange blotched jasper-red," says originator Hill, and while this carries us a bit beyond the limitations of our color vocabulary, we agree this is a rare, rich shade of yellow—a well formed, double bloom, long stemmed—and the plant is robust. Rated among the leading attractions in our display garden this season.

To Mrs. R. D. Dorsett, Norman, Okla., Butterscotch is indebted for these kind words—"To me it is a rich soft buff with creamy apricot undertones, giving it a glowing, living quality. Each rose is so graceful in form, so well poised on its own strong stem, it is a queen in its own right. I won the A.R.S. Silver Certificate with Butterscotch and consider it the finest of my 70 varieties, with the possible exception of Peace."

1.50

California. *Patent 449.* The All-America winner for 1940. Exceptionally tall, spreading and in constant bloom. Flowers are ruddy gold inside, coppery-rose outside, creating a striking dual tone effect. Paul Howard's beautiful nursery at Sawtelle has a hedge of California to gladden every rose-lover's heart.

1.25

Capistrano. P. A. F. (1949.) Still another of the "Mission Series" has won the coveted AARS award. Capistrano is named after the famous California mission, San Juan Capistrano, founded in 1776, and now noted for its swallows which leave and return on the same dates each year. From bud to completed flower this very large, heavy-petalled rose holds its rose-pink tones without fading . . . has that pure rose sweetness. Rates especially high as a cut flower. A handsome pink rose, we think destined for great and long-time popularity.

2.50

"Cat-in-Bag." (Pig in a poke.) Every nurseryman, however careful, finds himself each season, with a few bundles of roses from which tags have been lost, and positive identification impossible before blooming. They are all No. 1 plants, but variety, color, type—*quien sabe?* If you like to gamble, here's your chance—you may be delighted or not-so-delighted, but the thrill of suspense alone is worth the price.

.75

Summer, 1949. When the owner of the country's finest and most authentic collection of hybrid perpetuals orders 4 Cat-in-bag from us last spring . . . w-e-l-l . . . !

Charlotte Armstrong. *Patent 455.* Its long, beautifully formed buds are too universally known and loved to need special comment—the favorite hybrid tea of thousands of enthusiasts everywhere. Color is variable, but under favorable weather, is a warm rose-red, especially fine in spring and autumn. The writer, unwisely, once ventured the printed comment "this rose has so many virtues it's a bit dull (if you know what I mean)."

1.50

Christopher Stone. A splendid scarlet, rated high, 80% by the American Rose Society, and given a First Class Trial Ground Certificate, by the NRS of England—rare honors both. Bushy, medium grower, with good health and a constant performer. Says authority Roy Hennessey, "*Nearly the perfect rose.*" Certainly only a "perfectionist" like Roy could ask for more.

1.25

Christopher Stone Climbing. Pat. 626. The host of enthusiasts for this dazzling scarlet rose in bush form, will welcome the addition of Climbing Christopher Stone—a strong contender for first place among the red climbers.

2.00

City of York. *Climbing.* One of the most outstanding white climbing roses of recent years—in fact we cannot recommend a better. Blooms in clusters of 7-15, large, semi-double, with brilliant stamens; foliage very glossy, ivy green; a strong grower and profuse, repeating bloomer. ARS National rating 84%!

1.50

Climbing Cecile Brunner. The charming "sweetheart rose" described under Polyanthas, which is especially fine in climbing form; unexcelled wherever it has room to spread itself; its great spring bloom is magnificent, and where many climbers would rest for the summer, Cecile Brunner just goes right on producing.

Summer, 1949. Our great plant on the hill was a spectacle this Spring beyond mere words. 1.25

Contrast. To those of you, who are tiring a bit with your all reds, yellows, pinks and whites, this interesting and striking rose will strongly appeal. It is very vigorous to 4 feet, a steady bloomer, and produces some rare, double flowers, described, "China pink and bronze, reverse white and bronze." We included Contrast in our selection of 25 outstanding roses after inspection of some 500 display varieties. 1.25

Crimson Glory. *Patent 105.* Red rose-lovers, here and abroad, have appraised this beauty the finest rose of all time. Nationally rated by the ARS 95%, —665 reports from 48 states. We like Roy Hennessey's description which follows —"*Rose worthy of its lovely name, with a pointed bud opening to a big, fully double, high centered crimson bloom of rich velvet. It might have posed for all the pictures of the ideal rose down through the ages. Powerfully fragrant, with richest damask perfume; very heavy blooming and healthy, on a vigorous but low compact plant.*" Unhesitatingly recommended for California and everywhere.

Says Frank Meyers, Albany, Georgia—"Crimson Glory you sent me is the finest bush ever to come into my yard, among 275 others." 1.35

Climbing Crimson Glory. *Patent 736.* At long last, this magnificent red rose is available in climbing form. Has gained already a national ARS rating of 82%, and seems headed to top the climbing class. Flowers identical with the bush type, profuse, repeating bloom. 2.00

Crown of Gold. A distinctive golden yellow, shading to the edges, which we feel deserves a place among these carefully selected beauties. Very large, double, on long strong stems; vigorous to 5 feet, with large leathery foliage. 1.25

Curly Pink. One of the latest creations of the Brownells, Rhode Island—a two-tone pink rose, which may rival their everblooming, sub-zero Pink Princess. Believe we are the first to propagate the famous Brownell Roses in California—we want our western customers particularly, to know these fine varieties, grown on our great understock. 1.75

Cynthia Brooke. *Pat. 551.* We were so impressed with this outstanding yellow, as we first viewed it in Iva Newman's Hillsborough garden, we are now privileged to offer a limited quantity for 1950 planting. It was the really "colossal" and elegant foliage which first caught our eye. The big fat buds open to egg-yolk shades, with buff-pink on reverse, the whole effect rich and handsome . . . nicely poised on long cutting stems. Welcome to our select list, fair Cynthia! 1.50

Debonair. *Patent 677.* A new and dashing rose cavalier, with crisp, smartly curling buds, opening to a fully double, fragrant bloom of primrose yellow. Excellent plant habit, with abundant dark, glossy foliage. Originator Dr. Lammerts can be justly proud of this one, and its latest ARS rating of 80%. 1.50

*A good Rose should stand in a vase by itself as a queen should;
then let any other flower or combination of flowers rival her if
they can.*

—REV. FOSTER—MELLIAR, LONDON, 1902

Dr. J. H. Nicolas. *Climbing.* A very large, double, rose-pink, blooming singly and in clusters, throughout the season. Especially desirable where a neatly growing, moderate climber is needed and makes a splendid pillar. First admired by this writer blooming in great profusion for master rosarian Dr. Gage of Arcadia, California, who tolerates no duds in his fine garden. 1.50

Enchantment. *Patent 737.* Very full, huge, soft pink-peach, yellow at base—different and intriguing. Fragrance “delightfully elusive yet all-prevailing” says the originator. Glossy, ivy-green foliage on a vigorous, upright plant. One of the new eastern roses we feel deserves a place in more western gardens. 1.50

Fandango. *P. A. F.* The catalog writer is a bit cautious about quoting verbatim some of these new rose descriptions . . . they read at times like an eulogy on the first born child. But when Armstrong Nurseries describe their new creations, the adjectives have been “sandpapered” by the boss himself . . . so here is what they say about Fandango, hot off the press—*“The beautiful rich coloring of this rose will endear it to thousands of planters over the next few years. Rich deep scarlet in the small to medium ovoid bud, the flower changes as it opens to a bright cerise red which remains attractive until the last petal drops. The large petals (15 to 25 of them) have a crisp ruffled appearance which adds to its beauty. It will always be one of the two or three rose varieties to bloom earliest in the spring. The compact, vigorous, glossy foliaged plant does not stop blooming at any time during the season. The rose loses petallage and size during hot weather being at its best in the spring and fall.”* (Aren’t we all!) 2.00

Fantastique. *Patent 574.* Rather low, spreading habit, glossy foliage; prolific bloom. Buds of yellow and dark Tyrian rose, open to countless color variations in these tones; especially brilliant in early spring and autumn. We continue to rate Fantastique the best and most entertaining of all the so-called novelties, and a lapel or corsage bud par excellence. 1.25

Fiesta. *Patent 389.* We rise to defend an old favorite against such epithets as “vulgar, barber-pole, circus rose” etc. We challenge any of said critics to pass Fiesta in anybody’s garden without notice—for its gay vermilion petals, striped yellow, always shout a happy greeting. To those who complain about too little growth—stop reaching for long stems when cutting bouquets—this is no Charlotte Armstrong or Texas Centennial; let it grow! Still the cheeriest, brightest and best named large flowering H. Tea in Rosedom, and a mighty good plant, when gently treated. 1.50

Flambeau. *Patent 374.* Another eastern beauty, seldom seen in western catalogues, of deep, fiery crimson, with a velvet sheen. Bushy, open grower and a profuse bloomer. The color will “get you.” 1.50

Flash. *Pat. 396.* Let all the bicolors stand to attention! Here comes the captain of them all! Not a rampant climber but vigorous growth to 6-8 feet, with glossy almost rugose foliage. What color! As brilliant in effect as Austrian Copper . . . the cupped double flowers are velvety scarlet-red, with old-gold reverse . . . profuse spring and early summer bloom, occasionally recurrent. If it bloomed only for one week, you should have this one! 1.50

Forty-Niner. *Patent 792.* A Herb Swim creation, and All-America winner for 1948. Already rated 91% by the ARS. “An eye-catching combination of deep velvety red shading to yellow at center with yellow reverse.” Rated by this writer in the summer of 1948, the handsomest rose among Iva Newman’s bevy of beauties in San Mateo, California, with a plant habit worthy of the bloom. 2.00



Fred Edmunds. *Patent 731.* The French hybridist, Meilland is responsible for this striking hybrid tea, a non-fading nasturtium orange, with intense fruit fragrance, unexcelled in its color class. At its best in cool, moist climates but well worth a place in part shade if yours is a "hot" garden; we have watched it under many conditions and our admiration increases each season. Open grower to three feet.

Says Austin Faricy, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, California—"The color is of an intensity you usually associate with zinnias and marigolds . . . the flower is an evocation of mid-summer." 1.50

Golden Harvest. *Patent 729.* A 35 petalled rose in clear sulphur-yellow, noted especially for its profuse and almost constant bloom. George McDonough, San Francisco, is its "god-father" and defender against that "weak neck" slander. Says he in the American Rose Annual, 1948—"One of the greatest of yellows; plenty of pep, fragrance and bloom; no signs of disease; weak neck is out." A grand performer in our garden, say we. 1.50

Gold Rush. *Patented.* This is one of the few truly ever-blooming climbers, producing flowers on the season's new growth, of molten-gold, in great profusion. If you are looking for a new and exceptional yellow climber, this is it! 1.50

Good News. *Patent 426.* This catalogue is beginning to read like a eulogy for Francis Meilland, for here is another of his creations, and a real beauty it is! Very large, double, globular blooms in soft coral pink, with copper tones appearing in the cooler weather. Here is what rose enthusiast, Gordon Beals of Omaha, has to say about it—"Now here is a versatile beauty. In June it blooms all over the place and puts two or three pink neighbors on the east, to shame. Then in the fall, it turns west looking for new fields to conquer in the orange buff department . . . by the way, where were the ARS score keepers when this rose was demonstrated." We are wondering too. 1.50

Grande Duchesse Charlotte. *Patent pending.* An All-America award winner in 1942. If we were asked to name the most distinguished of the many modern beauties, our choice would be the Grande Duchesse. Tall and straight, she looks down graciously at her lesser companions, yet with a certain regal aloofness, as befits her station. Her blooms are of such indescribable tones, the experts have searched the color-charts, with widely different results—one says, "tomato red, shaded geranium-red." Another, "rich claret opening to lovely begonia-rose." Still another, "glowing morocco-red, opening to dusky coral-red, merging to soft coral-pink." Shall we try our luck, also? No—we could only add the tone "chestnut," for this describes best to us, the deeper richer coloring. 1.50

Grey Pearl. *Patent 680.* Be calm, friends, and be patient. For, alas, Grey Pearl is not available from us until the spring of 1950. In that catalogue we will print all the unfavorable, condemning comments appearing in the ARS Annual, the ho-hums and huhs of Doctor Gage, Clyde Stocking, my good partner Mrs. Lester and a host of other critics, and I will still urge you to plant Grey Pearl; but remember!—it must be grown the California way. Ladies—can you see those warm grey-lavender tones, in a corsage adorning your favorite black dinner gown?

Summer, 1949. Alack and alas! We did not succeed in budding enough for 1950, even to fulfill the gifts already promised. We repeat, "Be calm, ladies, and continued patience!" You'll be wearing a Grey Pearl rose some fine night . . . this is a promise, circa 1951.

Heart's Desire. (Climbing.) *Patent 663.* We are retaining this large, double and *heavily perfumed* cherry-red rose, in climbing form, where its tendency to "bend its neck" is an asset, as with most climbing roses. Certainly one of the healthiest and most profuse reds in existence, and an All-America winner in 1942. 1.50

High Noon. *Patent 704.* When we first admired this brilliant yellow climber we did not know it was destined for a Regional All-America award, 1948. Not considered hardy for severe northern climates but superb for California, the Pacific Northwest and the Southern States. If you are still dallying with the idea of trying some Pillar Roses, let's start with High Noon; its growth habit is ideal for pillars—bushy, many-stemmed, profuse and constant bloom; or, if you have a fence or low wall to cover, you can clothe it in a blanket of gold.

Summer, 1948. We quote Iva Newman, California—"A joy all year; never without a bloom and never a sign of mildew or rust." 2.00

Juno. P. A. F. (Armstrong.) *"In no other rose is large size, bright color and perfection of form combined to such a degree as in the flower of this new variety,"* says the originator, and while such a statement could provoke controversy in some quarters, we are inclined to go along with these bold words. This is a shapely, clear-pink rose of classic proportions, with the excellent plant and bloom habits for which Herb Swim's creations have been collecting gold medals. And, by the way, whoever names these fine Armstrong roses also deserves some medals—"Fandango, Applause, Forty-Niner, Tallyho, Nocturne, Taffeta, High Noon, Pinkie, Debonair, Mirandy . . . and now the Greek goddess Juno—all these titles pleasantly fit the special qualities of the roses. Take a bow for those responsible, Mr. Armstrong, s'il vous plait. 2.00

Katharine T. Marshall. *Patent 607.* All-America winner 1943. "Has the most luxuriant, biggest and handsomest foliage of any of the new roses," says one of our leading professionals. Not many petals, but of heavy texture; clear, warm, unshaded pink; fruity fragrance. From Utah we quote—"An outstanding 'thulite-pink.'" (We excuse you while you confer with Webster as did we) And from Virginia—"It holds its head high" as becomes the gracious wife of a great American gentleman, for whom this beautiful rose is named. 1.35

King Midas. Climber. Pat. 586. A semi-double climbing or pillar rose, with very clean, glossy foliage. Well formed, 20 petal blooms come mostly in graceful clusters, which have a happy way of breaking profusely along the nicely arched canes. Yes, "it repeats" (in answer to the rose-world's leading \$64 question) and it "smells" (good). 1.50

Lipstick. A shrub rose reaching 5-6 feet, blooming steadily in clusters mostly 7, semi-double, 2" flowers of turkey red—a vivid, startling color effect and very well named. We divert for a moment, thinking you may be amused by an incident last spring, in which a youth of romantic age was assisting in the garden inventory of our display plants. He noted the accidental sequence, "Pink Princess, Enchantment, Lipstick and Boudoir," then exclaimed—"Gee, roses sure do have pretty names!"

"Now in January, the year of the 'California big freeze' with all the garden desolate, I picked a cluster of Lipstick, its gleaming, flaming red a fit companion for some stubs of unburnt Xmas candles. It holds its color much better than its name might indicate," says Mrs. A. Larsen, Berkeley, Calif. 1.50



Lowell Thomas. *Patent 595.* All-America selection, 1944, named for the noted radio commentator. We have been watching this distinguished gentleman of rosedom competing with other hybrid teas in our test plots, and agree with Mrs. Barnes, Utah, it is "an aristocrat in the clear-yellow roses." Fred Edmunds, Oregon says of it—"Easiest grown of all yellows; good exhibition, garden decorative and cut flower." Upright grower to four feet; steady, dependable bloomer.

Summer, 1949. New yellows come and go but we think this grand rose will go right on forever. 1.50

Lucia Zuloaga. The great Spaniard, Pedro Dot, again has given us one of those unique color tones for which he is famous, leaving it to the poor catalogue writers however, to find a name for it. Says one authority, "velvety brownish scarlet with a golden undertone." Do you get it? No, you say? Well, then take our word for it—this is one of the most distinctively beautiful varieties listed herein and worth twice the price.

Spring, 1949. "Of all the unusual and brilliantly colored hybrid teas, out in the open sun at the nursery or in the filtered light of the display garden, this has impressed me the most," says our excellent secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Stemler. Not often a rose secretary goes overboard with a splash like this. 1.50

Mark Sullivan. *Patent 599.* Good anywhere but superb in the cooler districts, where its striking color-yellow flushed Tyrian rose, appears in richest and most varied tones. After several years observation here and elsewhere, Mark Sullivan continues to be listed among our ten favorite hybrid teas, not only for the gay variety of its sparkling blooms, but its air of health, and good-living; this is a "happy rose." 1.50

McGredy's Ivory. (Portadown Ivory.) Thought by many who should know, the finest white rose in commerce; rated 97% (a record) by the American Rose Society, and granted a First Class Certificate by the NRS of England. Long pointed buds, of creamy white, open to 28 petalled blooms of great distinction. A white rose should be big, handsome, and fragrant. McGredy's Ivory is all three. 1.25

McGredy's Scarlet. *Patent 317.* A velvety crimson-scarlet, double rose of excellent form with all the fine traits for which the McGredy varieties are famous; tea fragrance. Very lively grower and bloomer, glossy fern-green foliage. First observed by us in the fall of 1946 and included forthwith in our limited select list. 1.50

McGredy's Yellow. The rose world owes much to the McGredy family, Portadown, Ireland, who have given us many prize-winning roses, of which McGredy's Yellow is probably the best known. Rated 80% by the A.R.S., and given first place by the English professionals last year, in their Exhibition and Garden Rose class. This is a 27 petalled rose of lovely form. Is at its best near the coast, where the soft yellow blooms are unfading, but not to be denied to the interior district, for spring and fall blooming. 1.25

Mirandy. *Patent 632.* Another big, double (40-50 petals) rose, from the hybridizing genius of W. E. Lammerts. To discuss, "vigor, disease-resistance, and plant habit" about an All-America winner, seems superfluous, for no rose which is lacking in these qualities can reach top honors. But Mirandy is acknowledged to be moody in the coastal regions, and thrives best in the interior sunshine, where it is an exceptional beauty. Color is garnet-red, with that sweet, spicy fragrance. Grows to about 2½ feet and needs no coddling. 1.50



FORTY-NINER ALL-AMERICA WINNER

Mission Bells. P. A. F. (Germaine.) All-America Award winner. Says Germaine—"Any new variety developed by us must have something entirely different in color, habit or outstanding characteristic to make it especially attractive to the rose public." And that means the canny Scot, Bill Clark, squints at it critically from the time it pops out the first bloom as a seedling, goes through the national trial tests and comes up for final rating by the old master. At long last, maybe we now have a rose as brilliant in color, "clear shrimp" as the catalog illustration. Mission Bells is chiefly distinctive for its unique, unfading color, and the very long, almost thornless stems on which flowers are borne singly. In vigor, health and blooming quality, its All-America rating assures top performance. By now you are ready for the price. 2.50

Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek. Pat. 664. An All-America winner by Carl Duehrsen, the creator of many beautiful roses, who conceals much deep roselore behind that modest demeanor. This tall, stately rose, like the great Chinese lady for whom it is named, can be temperamental at times, and needs the right conditions to produce its finest lemon-yellow blooms. Not for the novice, in our opinion, but to the experienced gardener, a royal treat! 1.50

It has been well said that the test of a garden visitor is how long he can converse with the owner without using the personal pronouns I, my, or mine. If he refrains for five minutes he is above average!—"ROSES FOR EVERY GARDEN," DR. R. C. ALLEN, 1948

Mme. Henri Guillot. *Patent 337.* Reports from 44 states, totalling 354 ARS Members gave this handsome rose an 89% rating!—and we add the Bagatelle Gold Medal for good measure. It's very large, rather flat open blooms are an indescribable tone of dark coral-pink, warmed a little by a touch of orange, a color unlike any other rose we know. Foliage is very large, glossy, ivy-green. Vigorous and profuse in bush form and an exceptionally fine climber. If we were not saving some adjectives for other varieties, would toss them all in here.

Bush and climbing—please specify.

1.50

Mrs. Miniver. Pat. 725. Yessir, and madame, we DO have some this year . . . not too many, unfortunately, hence "only one to a customer." Hunting for adjectives to express our liking for this beauty, we select "blazing and dazzling red" . . . the petals "*wave like the roof of a Chinese Pagoda*" (thanks Dr. Gage). The whole effect is full of grace and brilliance, unexcelled in our humble opinion, by any other red rose. Now don't let anyone convince you Mrs. Miniver is hard to grow. She isn't.

1.50

Narzisse. A handsome, maize-yellow rose, of great substance, on extremely long stems, at its best in the warmer districts, where the large, double, beautifully formed blooms open to greatest perfection. We withdraw our statement of last year that "this is for the experienced gardener only," having seen it growing this summer under varied conditions—far from "expert." And if we had Rose Shows to conquer, believe Narzisse would be our entry. Certainly an exhibition rose!

1.50

Neige Parfum. Says George McDonough, San Francisco—"The white of whites! Consistent producer of perfectly shaped blooms with pleasing fragrance; gets better as it ages," and Roy Shepherd, Medina, Ohio, who knows his roses, old and new, adds "This rose has become my favorite white."

Dr. Gage, not to be out-shouted by these master critics, comes forth with this—"Neige Parfum is a honey—a thrifty, shapely plant (the Doctor has an eye for "form") with plenty of healthy green foliage; it is seldom without blooms which sparkle even in the hottest sun." Not a rampant grower but responds to petting. (Don't we all).

1.50

Nellie E. Hillock. *Patent 185.* Somehow the honest, wholesome name which this rose bears, seems to keynote its description, for Nellie is a lusty lass, short waisted and broad in the beam, with a glow of health in plant and flower which warms our hearts. The big, 60 petalled, peony-like blooms are silvery pink, reverse old-rose. Be kind to our Nell—we like her!

Summer, 1948. Comes the following comment from Griffith J. Buck, Ames, Iowa—"I thought you might be interested in the performance of the six Hillock plants you sent me this past spring. They have taken off and outbloomed everything in the college rose gardens including all of the new ARS test roses and most of the recent winners . . . through an error they were scored along with the test plants and made 95 points out of a possible 100!"

Thanks to Mr. Buck, we are able to offer Nellie E. Hillock in *Climbing Form*, for the first time. Mr. Buck discovered and developed a climbing sport which we now propagate, and enthusiastically present herein.

Bush and climbing—please specify.

1.50

Nigger Boy. H. T. (1933.) A velvety dark-red Australian beauty which caught the special fancy of Roy Hennessey some years ago and has been widely distributed by him to a host of enthusiastic admirers. It is a hybrid tea of Crimson Glory form and color with polyantha blooming qualities. You have picked a winner, Roy, and if you say it takes six of 'em to do Nigger Boy justice, you should know. So friends—"Please do not order less than six and save extra correspondence." (Also keep Roy's friend Will Tillotson out of the "dog-house").

Six for 9.00



NOCTURNE

Nocturne. *Patent 713.* Our congratulations to the Armstrong Nurseries for what, we believe, is an unequalled accomplishment in the rose world—FOUR All-America winners in one season, Nocturne, Taffeta, Pinkie, and High Noon. And a hearty BRAVO to the men responsible, Herb Swim and Walter Lammerts, each creating two. Nocturne is the new cardinal-red; and when that ultra-conservative Audrey Armstrong says "we believe that Nocturne is undoubtedly one of the half dozen best red Roses in existence" we will drop our own superlatives and just ask you—"how many?" 2.00

Peace. *Pat. 591.* After visiting the American home of the French-born Peace rose this spring, in West Grove, Penn. and enjoying the hospitality of Mr. Robert Pyle, Mrs. Lord and his fine organization, it behooves us now to discard past descriptions and "roll our own." Frankly, some years ago, when I first saw Peace growing in the van Barneveld fields, Puente, California, I was not impressed. Certainly it was a splendid plant, a profuse bloomer . . . the buds were big, the flowers enormous, but they were yellow, not red, and I confess to a weakness for red, in everything. Time passes, and Peace was acclaimed the "master rose" not only by the experts, but the thousands of gardeners the country over. "Could I be mistaken . . . must a rose be red to be tops," say I to myself, and I begin to study Peace as I see it thriving under so many conditions. Here is a rose anybody can grow; it refuses to die, however mistreated . . . it has an astounding vigor, as indicated by the great glossy leaves and strong stalks . . . you can't make it stop blooming. Nobody who grows roses commercially can ignore such characteristics for long. Personally, I don't care for the magenta edging which the open petals acquire in full sun . . . rather I prefer to cut the buds to open indoors, thereby retaining, "untainted," the beautiful clear-yellow coloring. Move over, thousands of Peace rose admirers, here I come! 2.00

Pilar Landecho. (Meilland.) (1940.) Hybridist, Herb Swim once dropped a remark which awakened our interest—"That *Pilar Landecho* is an unusually beautiful rose," upon which we set forth to find one . . . no easy task, as this variety has not had the fanfare and "million-dollar advertising" which some new roses enjoy. Well—we came, we saw and were conquered . . . And here it is—a rarity of great beauty in cadmium-yellow and dark coral shades—a connoisseur's rose. 1.50

Pink Lady. An unusually pretty, urn shaped, curling pink bud opens with special grace and retains its delicacy throughout the life of the flower. It has become a special favorite of Mrs. Lesters, who watches its comings and goings with alternate joy and sorrow. 1.50

Pink Princess. Pat. 459. One of the top Brownell Hybrid Teas, with a fine heritage from the hardy and profuse Dr. W. VanFleet, General Jacqueminot and Break o'Day. Our plants show great vigor and the big, very double blooms of lush rose-pink come steadily all season on long stems. This rose has survived 25 below zero and came up smiling. Will Arctic customers take special note. 1.75

Prima Donna. Patent 639. A big, fully double rose of fine form, in one of those illusive color tones so hard to put into words—"deep salmon" says the originator, but our color chart says "Venetian Pink" which we will just barely brush with amber. Suffice it to say the shade is alluring; can take the sun. A robust plant which needs no nursing. 1.35

Rubaiyat. Patent 758. Again we quote the excellent description, appearing in the Pacific Coast Nurseryman, as follows—"Because of the newness of the variety, *Rubaiyat* rests its claim to fame on its substantial heritage. Its high scoring in trial gardens and its unanimous choice as the only All America rose for 1947, give every indication that it will take a leading place among the great roses of the past nine years. Bred in Ireland by Samuel McGreedy & Sons, famous for fine roses, *Rubaiyat* has shown extraordinary vitality during its test years in America. From the country over, *Rubaiyat* has had the enthusiastic approval of the experts. In this respect it is a real successor to French-bred *Peace*. The exceptionally long stately bud opens slowly to a large flower. A vibrant rose-red in the bud, the color deepens as it opens. Resistant to many of the minor ills, *Rubaiyat* grows about three feet in height and shows its vigor in stout, erect shoots with abundant foliage down to the ground.

Says Neville Miller of Palmerton, Penn.—"*Rubaiyat* is really a worthwhile addition to your list. It has the healthiest foliage of any H. T. in my garden and the flowers are large and beautiful, with a fine lemon-rose fragrance. Color holds well and petals have unusual substance. *Rubaiyat* would rate high even if compared with the hybrid perpetuals and is head and shoulders above most hybrid teas." 1.50

San Fernando. Patent 785. An All-America winner in 1948, with a pedigree including some of the best blood in rosedom—Heart's Desire, Crimson Glory and Poinsettia! Large, long pointed buds of blackest crimson open in good weather to deep fiery crimson. Probably the most richly fragrant of all moderns. Among the dark red roses, unsurpassed. And, Dr. Gage also adds his blessing!

Summer, 1949. We add an enthusiastic ditto to the above, and a lot more of 'em from a host of delighted customers. 2.00



TO YOU FROM US: Subject: **Christmas**

Last year somewhat gingerly, we admit, we suggested our catalog, "**ROSES OF YESTERDAY**" as a Christmas gift for gardening friends—that list of liked people, everybody has, not close enough in the family circle for that bottle of Chanel No. 5 or a new traveling bag, but much too nice not to be remembered.

The response fairly swamped us! Everybody, it seems, had friends and neighbors who shared an interest in roses. Many a childhood memory was awakened by the descriptions of the old roses, and many a new-born rose enthusiast was started on the way to life's most fascinating hobby.

Now, we are not in the "book business"—heaven forbid! But chances are if **YOU** like this catalogue your friends will enjoy it also . . . we would hope it might reach those who have a special interest in the rare and unusual rose varieties.

Your check, coin or stamps, at 35c each, will deliver your friends a copy of "Roses of Yesterday" for Christmas arrival. We will enclose your card or ours to identify you as the giver.

May we have your list early? **NOW** is a grand little word.

Most cordially,

Lester Rose Gardens

ROUTE 5, Box 914 — WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Route 5, Box 914 — Watsonville, California

Order No.

19.

Address

[illegible]

When more space needed please use other side

San Gabriel. P.A.F. We cannot improve on the originator's description which follows—*Long pointed buds of glowing salmon with a heavy overlay of tangerine orange and fire red. Distinct saffron yellow at the base of each petal. As the flower opens the petals reflex, showing all the beautiful coloring. Exceptionally free flowering and long lasting. Pleasing tea fragrance.*

Says Mrs. George Dieterly, Cincinnati, Ohio, "*San Gabriel was a real delight—always with 4 to 6 blooms. Not even the catalog description had prepared me for the melody of colors in this rose.*" Believe this is the first time in history a variety proved better than the originator's description. 2.00

San Luis Rey. P.A.F. Won our admiration this season by the persistence with which it maintained its clear deep canary-yellow—weather come what may. Well formed buds and lots of them, opening to a full, tea scented flower. Is a competitor for a leading place among the recent yellows. 2.00

Special. We offer the MISSION SERIES, all three of these distinctively beautiful modern roses, San Fernando, San Gabriel and San Luis Rey. 5.00

Satan. Patent 379. We turn immediately to our garden notes—"Old Nick should be flattered to have this handsome rose named for him. Has much the same rich, blackish-scarlet tones as World's Fair, but larger and better shaped, also shows very ornamental old-gold stamens. Petals are of good substance to hold fine form. Has that red-rose fragrance and the plant is GOOD! 1.50

Saturnia. Patent 349. As you have discovered long since, we cannot resist any rose, whose rich and unusual coloring stands out from the crowded ranks of the hybrid teas. Saturnia is almost a bi-color—a luminous dark carmine, reverse pale coral-pink—the whole effect is warm and alluring. Foliage is really enormous, and the new growth is a glossy maroon, much like the newer Taffeta. If we rave on any further we will sound like—well, a certain catalogue best unmentioned here. 1.50

Shades of Autumn. Patent 542. We, like you, no doubt, were first attracted to this rose, by the refreshing color illustration, which appears in most of the Brownell publicity and is a big step forward in rose picturization. This is a distinct bi-color, in orange copper and deep carmine—"one of the most beautiful and delightful color combination yet produced in Hybrid Teas," says able authority Bobbink & Atkins. We are well pleased with plant habit and bloom performance. Still another eastern rose we recommend also for western gardens. 1.75

Show Girl. Patent 646. Another offspring of the great parent Crimson Glory, bearing the famous W. E. Lammerts trademark. Says Fred Edmunds, Oregon, "One of the best deep-pink exhibition and garden roses for this section; bushy, well foliated plant; plenty of long pointed, well formed buds," and Mrs. Packard, Los Angeles adds the feminine touch—"The flower is stunning at night under lights."

Mrs. Carl A. Greiner, Marne, Michigan, wrote us last year—"You say (in the catalogue) 'write us when our roses are blooming in your garden'—so I go out and look again at that *SHOW GIRL* which came to us from you last March, in zero weather. There she stands, with her relatives around her, and at this her third blooming, she tops them all for size and unfading colors. Her dignity is superb, yet she is not stiff, and is not dependent on night lights to hold her glamour. Why didn't they name her 'Country Girl?' Certainly there's no 'one-night stand' about her." (Mrs. Greiner received those 5 roses, gratis, which we are happy to give for anything we print.) 1.50



SHOW GIRL

Sleigh Bells. H. T. (1949.) We are grateful to Paul J. Howard for a happily named and fine white rose, not only because we have a weakness for white roses, but we think perhaps he has supplanted Pedralbes in Mrs. Judith Packard's affections. (We are sort of fed up with Pedralbes.) Anyway, we note her comments in the A. R. S. Annual, 1949—"Sleigh Bells . . . sensational well-formed white . . . large and full-petalled . . . very heavy bloomer," and others agree, as the national rating hit an enthusiastic 85%. Jingle Bells to you, Mrs. Packard, and a "White Christmas" 1950 to those who plant Sleigh Bells next spring. 2.00

Snowbird. When the "Proof of the Pudding" of the A.R.S. rates a rose 86%, this writer is willing to throw up his hat and join in the shouting, even though he likes his white roses "big and handsome." Handsome enough it is; and a rather belligerent Snowbird admirer once thrust some pretty big blooms under my dodging nose, forcing a hasty admission that Snowbird is not "puny." Big or not so big, Snowbird is a splendid, bushy plant, uncomplaining in any weather or location, and gives bountifully, well formed, double white blooms—mighty good smelling, too.

1.25



Sonata. Pat. 732. *"All the delicate and vibrant harmony of a musical masterpiece seems somehow to have found living expression in the exquisite form, enticing aroma and sparkling color of this one rose."* Now, after rereading our rather anemic description in last year's catalog, I hasten to discard it—and agree—"Sonata is truly as beautiful as a symphonic melody." In addition to all these charming "musical" qualities, may we add, humbly, we LIKE Sonata . . . like its rich deep-pink coloring, with the enlivening undertones . . . like the way the flowers come singly on long stems and keep coming . . . gets better every year, and we like that too. "Likable" is the word for Sonata. 1.35

Susan Louise. This is the truly ever-blooming bush form of the beautiful climber, Belle of Portugal, and in our opinion *one of the most valuable and delightful roses in existence*, regardless of color, form, or age. For the novice or the professional, at the beach or the desert, Susan Louise gives happily and constantly. Buds are very long-pointed, deep pink, excellent for bouquets; the open flower is semi-double, flesh-pink, charming and graceful. Robust grower to 5 feet or more. This, friends, is a ROSE! 1.25

Sutter's Gold. P. A. F. (1950.) (Armstrong.) As one of the nurserymen privileged to grow the Armstrong prize-winning roses, we received a very beautiful gold brochure, in which Sutter's Gold is described in better form than we possess. We quote verbatim:

"After 100 years, gold is again discovered in California . . . this time by Armstrong rose hybridists in a striking new golden rose. What a fitting commemoration of the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill and the 100th Anniversary of California's statehood, is the rose, Sutter's Gold!"

"California can be proud of this golden daughter for it is the first rose ever to win both the top national and international awards. Sutter's Gold captured the Foreign Gold Medal of the famous Bagatelle Rose Trials in Paris. And also received an All-American Rose Selections Award for 1950, for its performance in this most competitive and important of rose trials in America."

"Sutter's Gold features exquisite, long-pointed, bright yellow buds, richly shaded with orange and red. The opening flower is a lovely high-centered arrangement of about 30 crisp heavy-textured petals, and it possesses a fragrance unequalled in any other yellow rose. The great vigor, characteristic of Armstrong-bred roses, is outstanding in this one."

If you require greater honors than these, we respectfully refer you to our "Old-Fashioned Rose Department," page 8. 2.50

Sweet Sixteen. Patent 631. Here is a well-named, delicate, salmon-pink, with maize-yellow base, intensely fragrant. Rated 74% by the ARS for 1948 performance which is mighty good for a young lass. Plant is vigorous to 3 feet, well foliaged, bushy growth. Graceful and dainty are the leading adjectives needed here. 1.50

Taffeta. Pat. 716. All-American Winner, 1948.

*"There was a little girl, who had a little curl,
Right down the middle of her forehead.
When she was good, she was very, very good.
When she was bad she was horrid."*

Like the little girl with the curl, Taffeta can be very, very good, but where heavy mildew prevails, Taffeta can be "horrid." We are within ten miles of the ocean and have our share of fogs and mildew troubles. By heavy dormant spraying we have eliminated nearly all mildew, and Taffeta is one of the most beautiful roses in our display garden. . . . Hard to beat those rare blends and tints of rose-pink, salmon and apricot shades . . . the long stems, and that sensational burgundy foliage. Don't deny yourself Taffeta, unless you are a lazy sprayer or live in mildew country. It's a great rose if you "live right." 1.50



TALLYHO!

Tallyho. Pat. 828. Rated a resounding 94% by the A.R.S.! Certainly among the best of Herb Swim's creations. Tallyho can be cited as one of the many recent beauties to prove the hybrid tea class is responding to the experts efforts, not only in new and more resplendent color, but in the health, vigor and productivity of the plants. Tallyho is a two-tone in rose carmine and those rich Grande Duchesse Charlotte shades; fragrance is really entrancing, and the plant quality is fully worthy of the Armstrong tradition. By now, you have guessed we *like* this rose. *We do!* 2.00

The Doctor. The Doctor had to cross the big pond to England and back again, before it received due recognition in this country. Says N. P. Harvey, writing from England in the NRS annual, "*What of the Doctor? I find that it appreciates rich soil, and the foliage is then more ample and growth stronger. The shape and the way the bloom develops and unfolds is quite distinctive—practically every one is perfect as regards form, while the colour is definitely maintained until the petals drop. The American Rose Annual rightly calls it 'One of the largest of all Roses, one of the most beautiful, and one of the sweetest.'*"

Again, we are indebted to Austin Faricy of Cardiff-by-the-Sea—"Something like Rubens' Nymph would suggest better the feminine opulence of this rose. Its huge, serene flowers should be picked with a short stem to be displayed in silver or crystal and accorded the reverential treatment you give a magnolia or water-lily, with which it ranks, not only in proportions, but in its fragrance as well." Thanks, Mr. Faricy. You have a way with words. 1.50

V for Victory. *Patent 543.* Brownell sub-zero hybrid tea, this time in sulphur-yellow with a touch of red in the centers. Fully double, very fragrant, long cutting stems; plant is vigorous to 5-6 feet, good disease-resistant foliage. Our test plants, this summer, have made an excellent showing.

Summer, 1949. "This is the prize yellow rose of my garden," says old friend, Colonel Claude Feagin, of Soquel, California, who grows some mighty fine roses "back in them thar hills." 1.50

Will Rogers. *Patent 256.* This is a "controversial" rose. Its critics say it burns badly in the hot sun. We agree. Its admirers call it the best of the black-red roses and recommend light shade for best performance. Certainly one of the most distinctive of all moderns—fully double, with a beautifully ruffled petal arrangement; almost always in profuse bloom; heavy attar of rose perfume. We say Will Rogers is a great rose and so will you, if you give it a spot it likes, protected from a too brilliant sun. 1.35

Yours Truly. *Patent 697.* Another Ted Morris creation, introduced in 1945. Rated by many the best of the hot-weather pinks; blooms in high temperatures and holds its beautiful rose-pink tones to the end. Upright grower, with long, smooth stems; richly sweet-scented. 1.50

And so, gentle reader, the catalogue writer once again wipes his fevered brow, asks your forgiveness for his enthusiasms, his mistakes and his repetitions, and signs off with "Yours Truly."



Collectors' Items

Listed below are varieties old and new, in VERY limited supply for 1950. They are too few for full catalog description . . . too many for our own use in propagating . . . too good to be omitted.

BARONESS ROTHCHILD Cli. Rose-pink, superb form.
BOUDOIR H. T. (1942.) Tyrian rose, reverse old ivory.
CAPTAIN CHRISTY H. T. (1873.) "Tender fresh pink."
CAPTAIN HAYWARD H. P. (1893.) Light crimson, perfect form.
CONNIE'S CLUSTER Cli. Pale pink clusters, delicate, charming.
CREEPING EVERBLOOM (1939.) Brownell. Attractive red, rightly named.
DEVONIENSIS (Magnolia Rose.) Tea. Creamy white, tinged blush.
DUKE OF TECK H. P. (1880.) Crimson-scarlet . . . famous.
DUMORTIER Gallica. Light red.
ELIE BEAUVILLAIN Cli. Tea. Coppery pink.
GEORGE DICKSON H. T. (1912.) Velvety blackish scarlet.
GIPSY BOY Bourbon. Dark crimson.
GRAND CRAMOISI Gallica. (1818.) Crimson . . . good.
GRUSS AN AACHEN Poly. (1909.) Orange-salmon . . . popular favorite.
KATHLEEN HARROP Bourbon. (1919.) Shell pink.
LADY LECONFIELD H. T. (1939.) Cream flushed pink . . . honey fragrance.
MAMAN COCHET WHITE Tea. White satin . . . rare.
MAX GRAF H. Rugosa (1919.) Pink . . . ground cover extraordinary.
MRS. W. H. CUTBUSH Poly (1907.) Deep pink clusters, handsome foliage.
NESTOR Gallica. Large, full-crimson.
NEVADA Shrub (1927.) White with golden stamens . . . showy.
PINK DAWN H. T. (1935.) Lively clear pink . . . prolific.
R. MOSCHATA ABYSINNICA Musk. White clusters, "Prince of the Wild Tribes."
RUTH Climbing (1921.) Orange, flushed carmine . . . lovely.
SCHOENER'S NUTKANA (1930.) Single rose-pink, prolific.
SIERRA GLOW Pat. 521 H. T. (1942.) Salmon-orange and silver-pink.
SKYROCKET Shrub. (1934.) Unfading dark red . . . honey fragrance.
SUNGOLD Cli. H. T. Golden yellow . . . prolific . . . recurrent.
THUSNELDA H. Rugosa (1889.) Rose . . . lovely.
VIOLETTE Rambler (1921.) Only a field blunder places it here.

Foregoing all at (each)

1.50

SUGGESTIONS FOR ORDERING

"Please write legibly your name and address as I have enough trouble trying to read my own hieroglyphics." —FROM HENNESSEY CATALOG

SUPPLY OF ROSES is reported definitely short in all sections for 1950, and the demand increases each season. The wisdom of ORDERING EARLY for FULL SELECTION is greater than ever.

CALIFORNIA-GROWN ROSES, bare-root, are seldom harvested, hardened and ready for planting much before January first, hence we cannot book definitely for earlier delivery. We will guarantee, however, California Roses, SPRING PLANTED, will far surpass those from any other district which must struggle for survival in a long winter of zero temperatures. We ask you to try them at our risk. California roses thrive on strong, hardy understocks, with the longest season and most favorable growing conditions in the world.

WE CAN NOW DELAY SHIPMENT. New cold storage facilities will permit us to deliver dormant, bare-root roses in finest condition, as late as May 15th.

PRICES. While costs of labor and material continue very high, we are reducing prices on some of the old roses where quantities permit, also on several of the patents of recent vintage . . . occasionally there is an advance on such varieties as are hard to grow hence in light supply. Prices on Patented Roses are established for us by the patent owners, who collect a well-earned royalty from the amount you pay.

DISCOUNTS. We have adopted the sound principle of discount for quantity—10% if your order exceeds 20 plants, which shares with you the savings below the relatively high cost of packaging and delivering small orders. (This discount does not apply to Group Offers.)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Our terms, cash with order, prompt refunds when necessary, are general throughout the nursery business, and appear entirely satisfactory to all customers. Please add the sales tax of 3% in California only.

WE PREPAY DELIVERY CHARGES to any address, on all orders of 5 plants or more. On small orders, please add 20% for packaging and carriage. Whenever important for protection and quicker delivery, your shipments are insured at our expense.

ORDER BLANK. We have included a convenient order form.

SUBSTITUTIONS. Unhappy word—not only to you but to us also, for it is much jollier to send you exactly what you order. But much correspondence, delay and irritation may be saved if you can add a few alternates, of *your* selection. This courtesy may result in finer plants and better service.

GUARANTEE. Rose-lovers are the finest and fairest retail customers in the commercial world. We do not hesitate therefore, to guarantee, unconditionally, that our plants are true to grade and variety, "hale and hearty," ready and eager to grow and flower. Most, but not all varieties, old or new, bloom the first year planted. Our interest in your roses does not end with the filling of your order. **We will replace any which may fail for any cause, without time limit.**

"MY FRIEND THE ROSE," much loved book on Old Roses, by the late Francis E. Lester, will be sent, all charges paid, on receipt of \$2.50. "This is no manual on rose culture, but a fireside conversation with a man whose very creed of living was founded on what his roses had taught him through the years."

IF YOU LIKE THIS CATALOGUE, please tell your rose friends about it. We refund the requested 35c with the first order—no charge for following editions, when we are acquainted.

Lester Rose Gardens

ROUTE 5, BOX 914 — WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA



RETURNING FROM THE "HILL GARDEN"

"I have been thinking about Gardens—of the true pleasure in them. And I find, that if the garden be great, it is not in green breadths of lawn or long perspective of terraces or trees, or well-kept borders, or in chosen peeps of outland country that our soul delights. If the place be small, it is not the trimness of gravel paths or the brilliancy of ordered flower-beds that most do please. The true pleasure everywhere in every garden is the charm of individual interest—whether among the rough stones of the rockery, or in the sunny bit under an old wall, or in some other perhaps unfrequented corner of the garden, where grows some tender plant whose flowering is watched and waited for. It is the living, human love between us and our flowers; the love which impels us to return again and again to the same spot and never weary, whatever may be our favorite's name. It is this intense feeling for his plants and this alone, that makes the place dear to the soul of the garden lover."

—SYLVANA'S LETTERS TO AN UNKNOWN FRIEND

